デビルキング

第1部

さいとう・たかを

SAITO+PRO

やあ、みなさん。さいとう・たかをです。
これから、みなさんにお見せする
この作品は、
私が長い間あたため続けた作品で、
さいとう・プロの総力をかたむけた、
一大スペクタクル作品です。
劇画で出来る、ごらく作品としての
限界を試そう、というわけです。
きっとみなさんに、
楽しんでいただけると思います。
ではごらんください。
デビルキングです!!

SAITO-PRO
Saito Productions
Devil king

ヒュウウウウ
ヒュウ

NORTHERN KARUIZAWA AREA...
ウウウウウ……？

私有地
立ち入り
通行禁止
PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING

THE SKY WAS ANGRY THAT NIGHT AND THE WIND HOWLED WITH RAGE ...THE TREES SHOOK GLOOMILY AS THE DARKNESS GROANED IN PAIN AND SPREAD OVER THE EARTH...

財団法人小早川研究所
KOBAYAGAWA FOUNDATION LABORATORY

RHAAAA!
KI-KIMURA... C-COME BACK INSIDE! GET BACK INSIDE NOW!

UARGHHH !
KIMURA !
ゲ
ズ
LISTEN TO ME, YOU MUST GET BACK IN!

KIMU-
RAAA
!
KIMURAAAA!
STOP! COME
BACK !
KIMU-
RAAA!
KIMU-
RAAA!

ヒュー
ゲッゲッ
ハッハッ
ボキッ
ズッ
ハキッ

KIMURAAAA!
KIMURAAA!
WHERE IS HE?
KIMURAAA!
DAMN!

WHERE ARE YOU?
KIMURAAA! COME BACK!
THAT BLASTED FOOL...!
THE METABOLIC REACTION CAN START ANY TIME!
COME BACK TO THE LAB, KIMURA! IF YOU DON'T, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT COULD HAPPEN!
KIMURAAA!

GHRUU-UUU!
UARHH-HHH...
KIMU-RAAA!
...UAHH!
...P-PAIN...
KIMURAAA!

HEY, SLOW DOWN, WILL YOU? DO YOU WANT THE ENGINE TO OVERHEAT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
IF WE DON'T HURRY THE TYPHOON WILL CATCH UP WITH US. JEEZE, WHY DO WE HAVE TO WORK ON A DAY LIKE TODAY?

OWW! WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
HUH !?
IT LOOKS LIKE A... LAND-SLIDE. LOOK !
OKAY ...
LET'S GET A LITTLE CLOSER.
NOT MUCH WE CAN DO...

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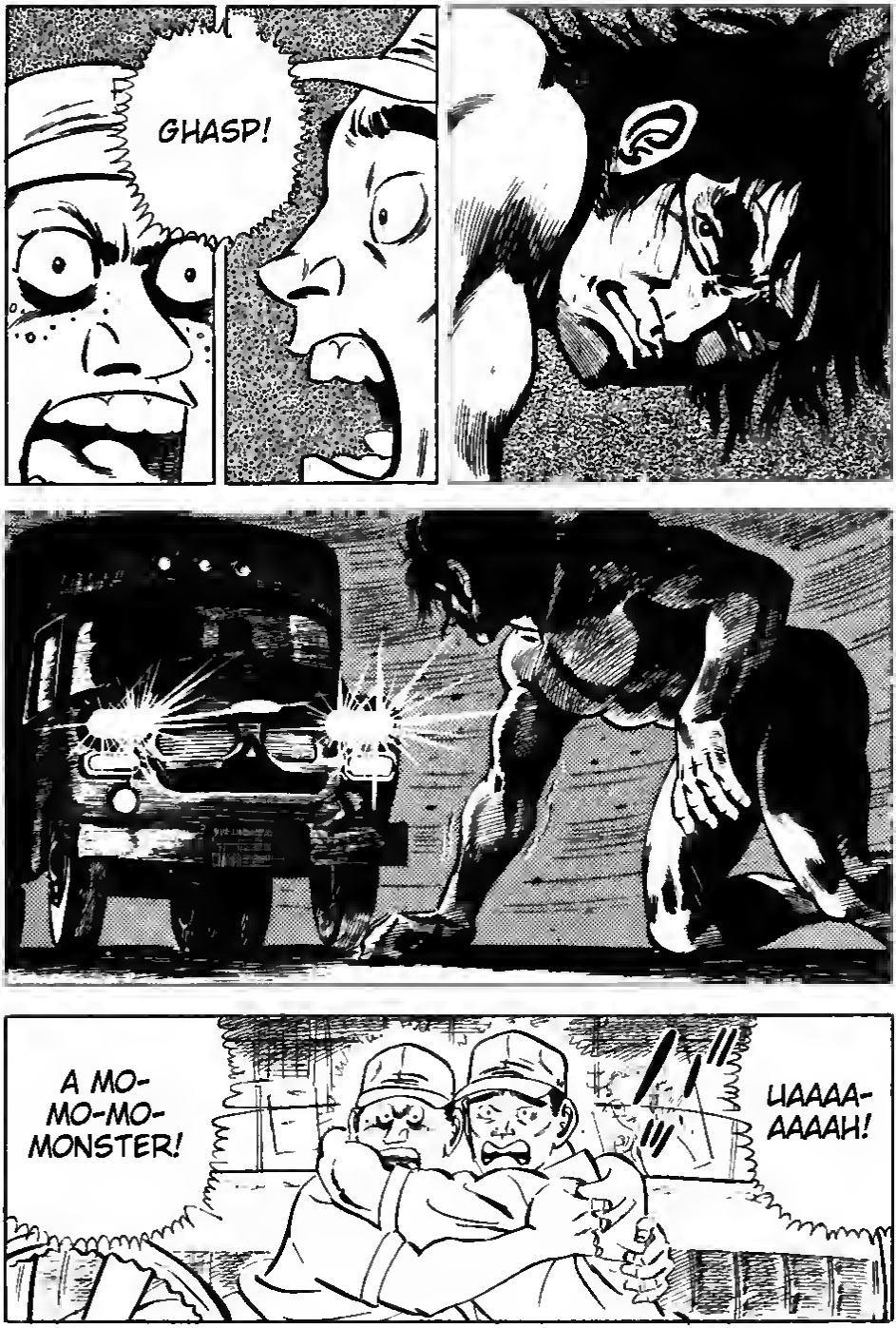
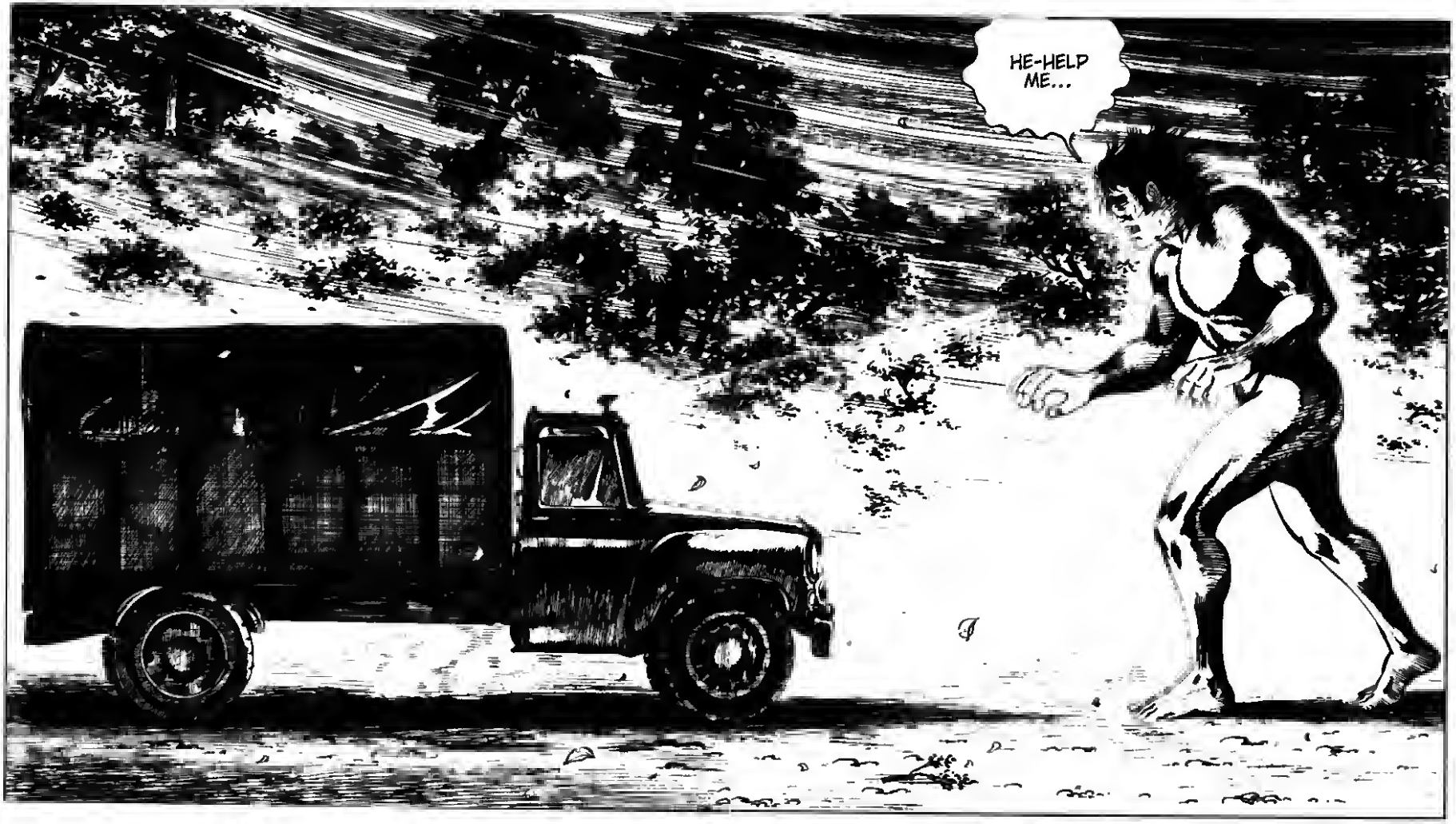
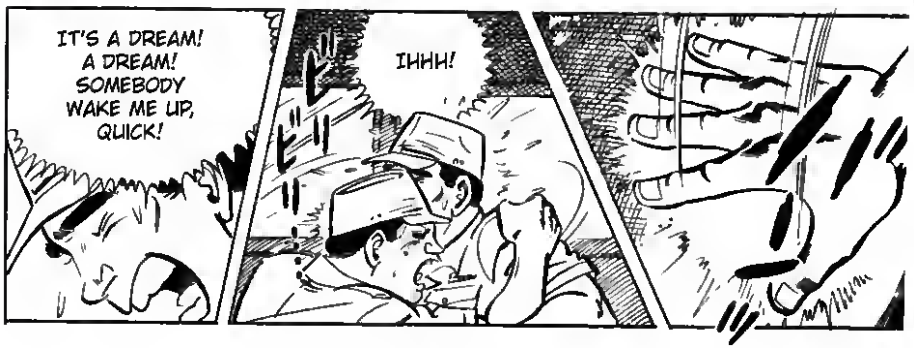
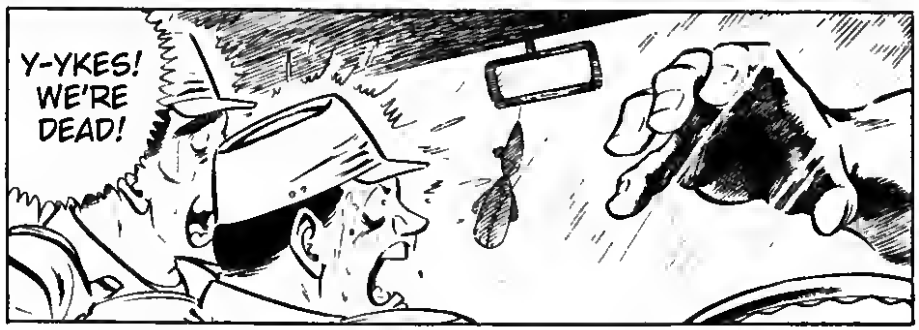

GHASP!
A MO-MO-MO-MONSTER!
UAAAA-AAAAH!


HE-HELP ME...


IT'S A DREAM! A DREAM! SOMEBODY WAKE ME UP, QUICK!
IHHH!


Y-YKES! WE'RE DEAD!

IT'S NOT A DREAM!
IT'S NOT A DREAM!
IHHH!
UNGHH!

KI-
KIMURA
...
OOH!
TOO LATE! THE METABOLIC REACTION HAS ALREADY KICKED IN...

MELANIN LEVELS WILL DECREASE NEXT...
...AND THE BLOOD VESSELS WILL BECOME VISIBLE THROUGH THE SKIN.
THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IS DEAD BY NOW. KIMURA CAN'T FEEL PAIN ANYMORE.
H-HEY! L-LOOK!

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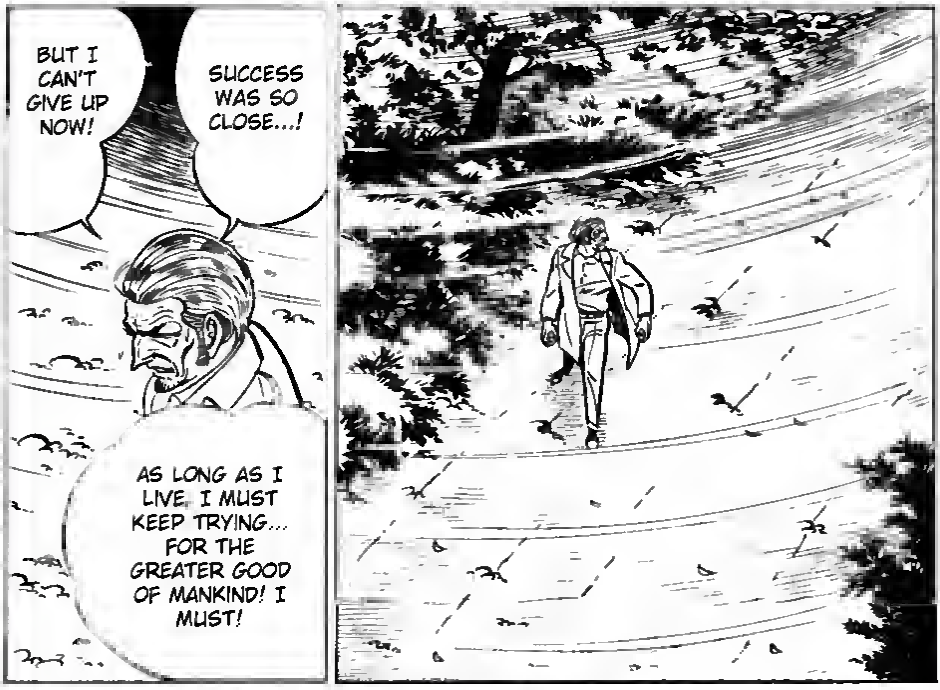
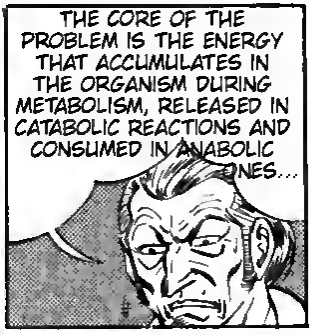
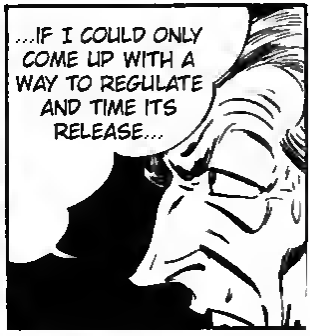
...ヒュウウ...
IT-IT WAS A MAN! I'M SURE!
I-IT'S G-GONE ...!
BURN SOME RUBBER !
Y-YEAH ...
L-LET'S... G-GET OUT OF HERE... QUICK...!
ヴィィィ


BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!
SUCCESS WAS SO CLOSE...!
AS LONG AS I LIVE, I MUST KEEP TRYING... FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF MANKIND! I MUST!


THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM IS THE ENERGY THAT ACCUMULATES IN THE ORGANISM DURING METABOLISM, RELEASED IN CATABOLIC REACTIONS AND CONSUMED IN ANABOLIC ONES...

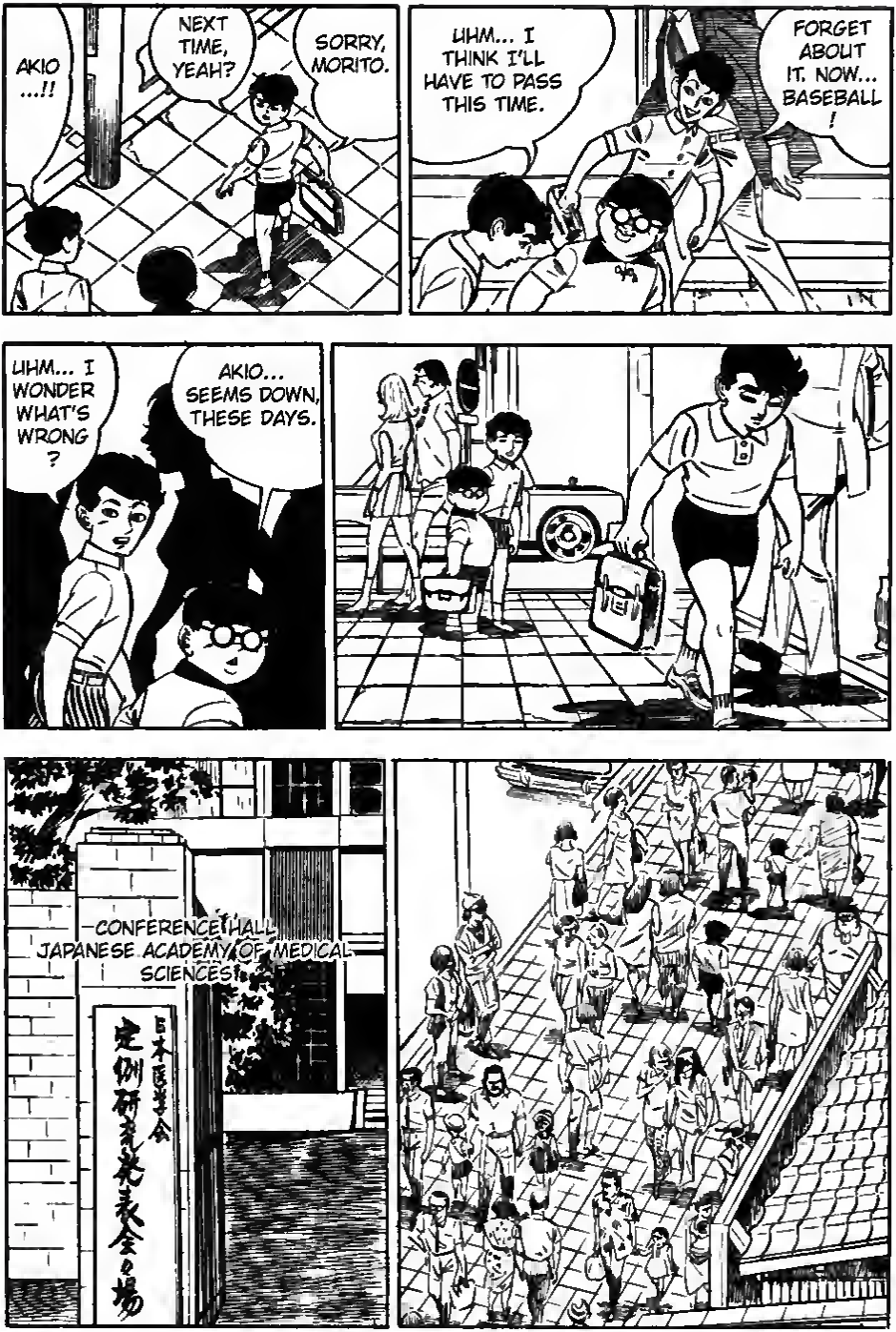

...IF I COULD ONLY COME UP WITH A WAY TO REGULATE AND TIME ITS RELEASE...

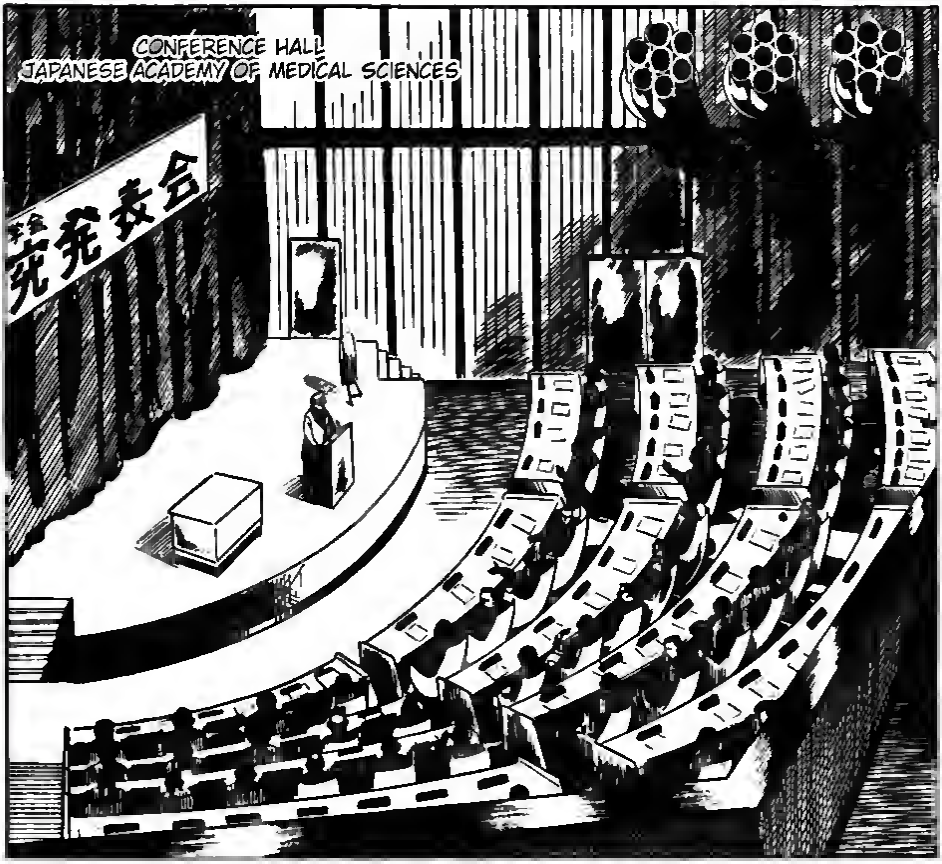
TOKYO, THE WORLD'S
LARGEST METROPOLIS.

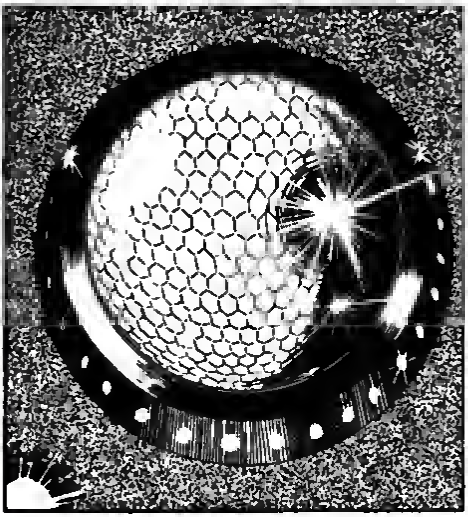
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US, AKIO? MY DAD HAS SOME TICKETS FOR VIP SEATS AT KORAKUEN STADIUM!
...
YEAH, AND I BET TABUCHI WILL HIT A HOME RUN!
I BET ENATSU WILL DELIVER THE FIRST PITCH!
DIDN'T THE TEACHER SAY THIS YEAR'S SUMMER CAMP WOULD BE IN KARUIZAWA?
HE DID.
HEY, MORITO!
UHM...
WHAT DO YOU SAY, AKIO...?

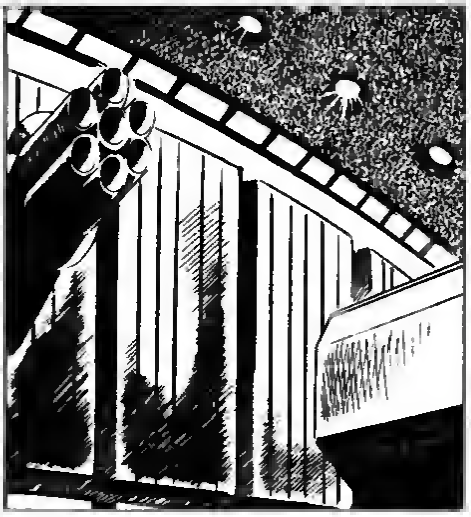
YIPPIE!
...
WELL, YEAH.
...WITH LOTS OF HORSES, RIGHT?
YOUR FAMILY HAS A HOLIDAY HOUSE AND A RANCH THERE, RIGHT?
...
OOOOO
OKAY.
WILL YOU LET US RIDE THEM, WHEN WE GO TO KARUIZAWA?
AKIO, YOU COMING TOO, THIS YEAR?
BAH!
キキィ
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO RIDE A HORSE!
...?
UHM...

...
WEIRD...! HE JUST KEPT STARING AT YOU AS IF...
N-NO, I DON'T...
DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY, AKIO?
YEAH...
...THEY MUST BE DOC-TORS.
...C-CONFERENCE HALL... J-JAPANESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES...
日本医学会
定例研究発表会場
CONFERENCE HALL JAPANESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
HE'S A FAMILY PHYSICIAN, I GUESS THESE DOCTORS ARE MOSTLY RESEARCHERS IN BIG UNIVERSITY LABS OR RESEARCH FACILITIES.
BUT WHY IS MY DAD PLAYING GOLF INSTEAD OF BEING HERE?
BUT... I WONDER WHY THAT GUY KEPT LOOKING AT ME...
THEY'LL TALK ABOUT HOW SMOKING CAUSES CANCER AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT, THAT KIND OF STUFF!
RIGHT!


AKIO ...!!
NEXT TIME, YEAH?
SORRY, MORITO.
UHM... I THINK I'LL HAVE TO PASS THIS TIME.
FORGET ABOUT IT. NOW... BASEBALL !
UHM... I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG ?
AKIO... SEEMS DOWN, THESE DAYS.
—CONFERENCE HALL JAPANESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES—
日本医学会
定例研究発表会の場


CONFERENCE HALL
JAPANESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES



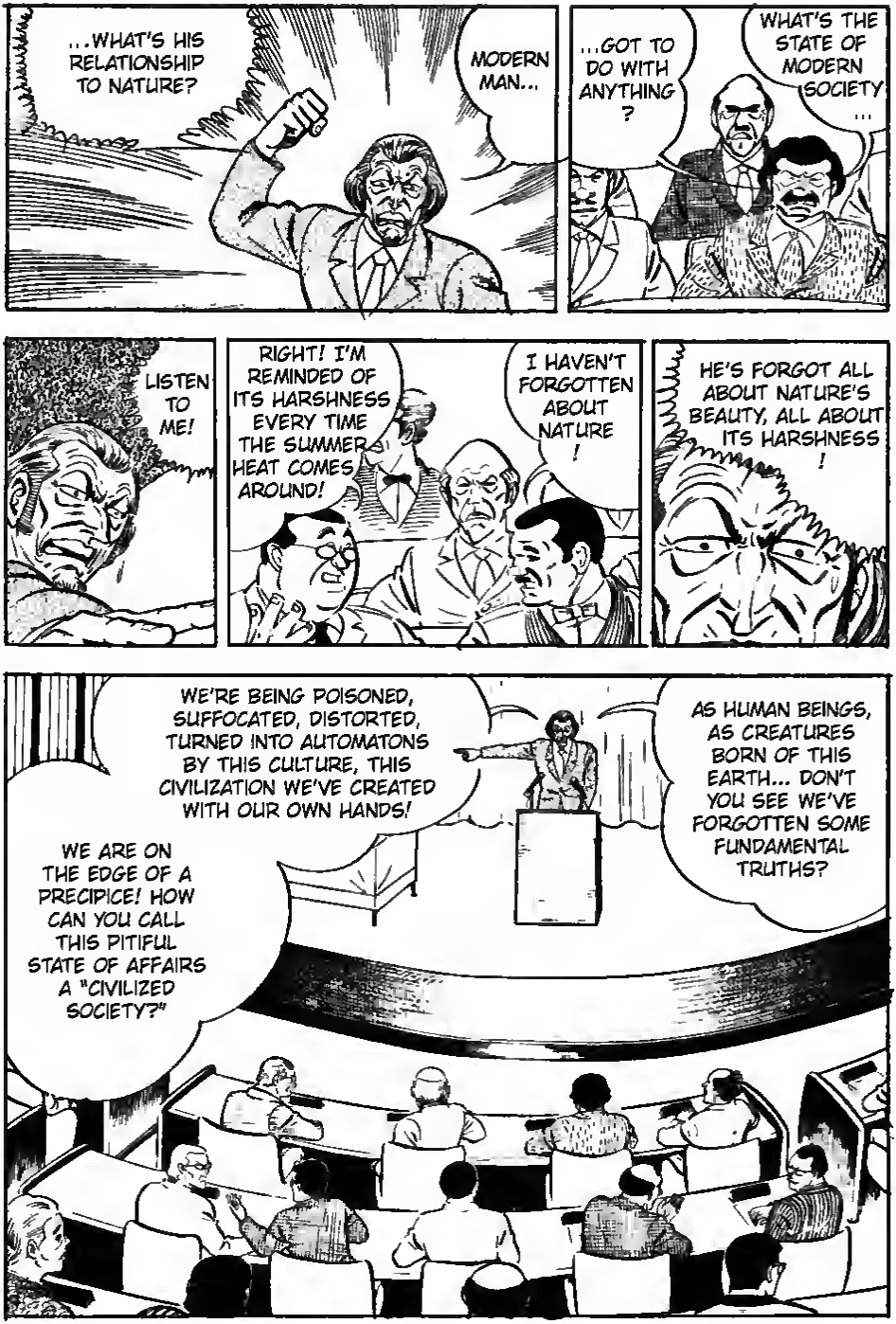


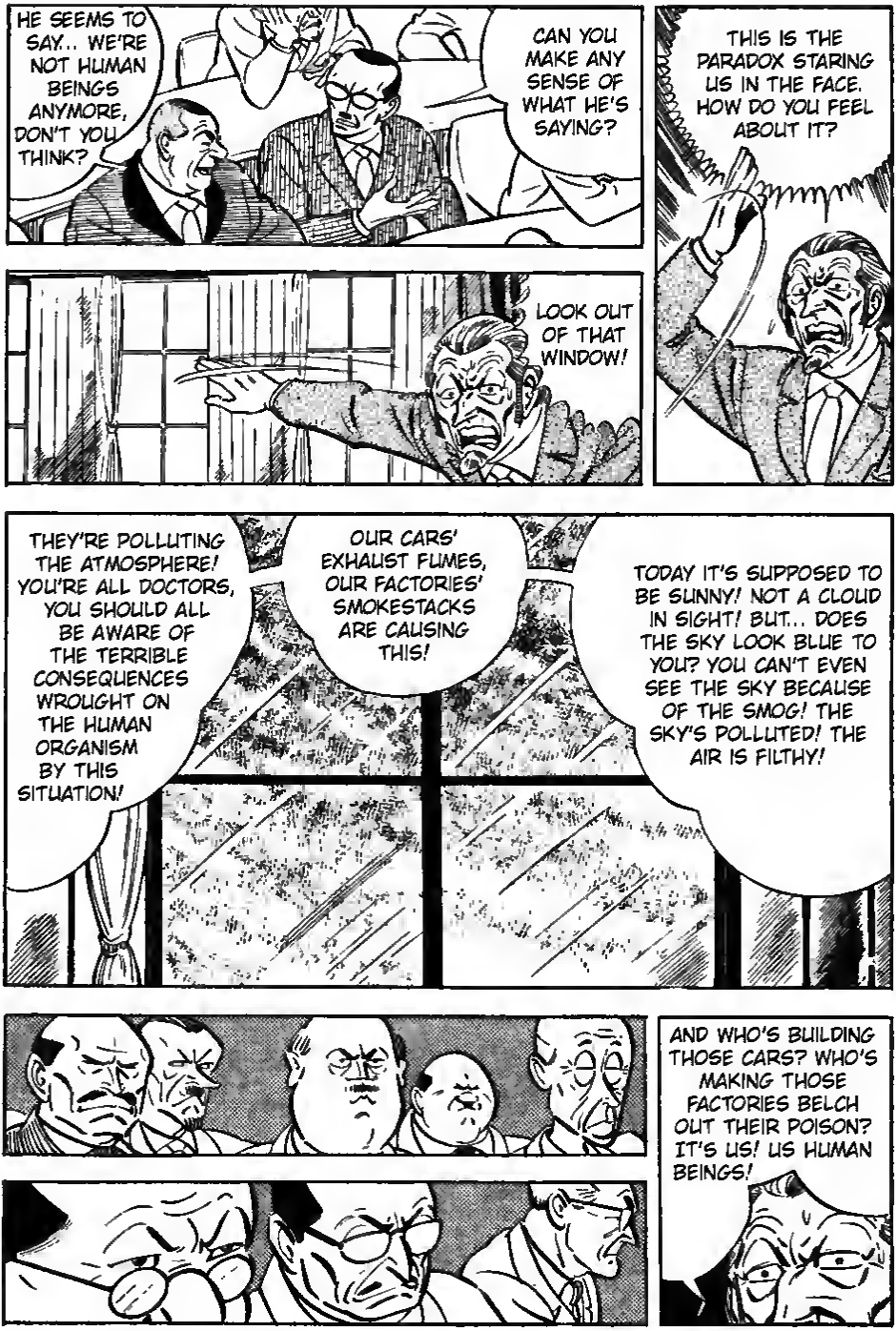
...AND THIS IS ALL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
REIJIRO KOBAYAGAWA PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
医学博士
小早川令次郎
KOTARO NOJI CLINICAL TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY
KOTARO NOJI CLINICAL TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY
THAT GUY IS A TRUE MEDICAL HERETIC...
UHM... I WONDER WHY HE'S BEEN HOLED UP IN HIS LAB IN KARUIZAWA FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS!
...IT'S PROFESSOR KOBAYA-GAWA'S TURN, AT LAST.
...HE'S CUT ALL CONTACTS WITH OUR ASSOCIATION. BESIDES, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IDENTICAL TWINS HAVE A PRE-DISPOSITION TO MENTAL ILLNESS.
HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC FOR TWO YEARS, HE HAS NO FRIENDS...
UHM...
...AND HE SUFFERS FROM ACUTE PARANOIA TOO.

HE'S THE FOUNDER OF MODERN PLASTIC SURGERY! AND A PIONEER IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPLANTS TO BOOT!
BESIDES, DON'T FORGET HE'S A WORLD AUTHORITY IN CYTOLOGY AND JAPAN'S FOREMOST SURGEON TOO!
YOU COULD ARGUE THAT MOST SCIENTISTS SHARE THE SAME PRE-DISPOSITION.
THOUGH I MUST ADMIT HIS TWIN BROTHER IS AN EXTREMELY SOCIABLE PERSON.
...EVERYONE IN THE ROOM IS GETTING QUITE IMPATIENT.
HE HASN'T EVEN TOLD US THE TOPIC OF HIS PRESEN-TATION ...
AND THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LOOK FORWARD TO TODAY'S PRESEN-TATION!
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ……
ざわ……

パチパチパチ
パチパチ
?
?
?
?
BAH, HE'S BEING HIS USUAL SELF-IMPORTANT SELF!
WHAT'S WITH HIM?

ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
?
HUH?
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT MY MEDICAL RESEARCH.
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
...I'M STANDING ON THIS PODIUM TODAY AS THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT ALL OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT !
HOW-EVER ...
I HAVE NO IDEA. HE SEEMS TERRIBLY UPSET, THOUGH ...
WHAT THE HELL IS PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA GOING ON ABOUT?
...EH?!
WHAT ?
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE STATE OF MODERN SOCIETY ?
TELL ME!


...WHAT'S HIS RELATIONSHIP TO NATURE?
MODERN MAN...
...GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING ?
WHAT'S THE STATE OF MODERN SOCIETY ...
LISTEN TO ME!
RIGHT! I'M REMINDED OF ITS HARSHNESS EVERY TIME THE SUMMER HEAT COMES AROUND!
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT NATURE !
HE'S FORGOT ALL ABOUT NATURE'S BEAUTY, ALL ABOUT ITS HARSHNESS !
WE'RE BEING POISONED, SUFFOCATED, DISTORTED, TURNED INTO AUTOMATONS BY THIS CULTURE, THIS CIVILIZATION WE'VE CREATED WITH OUR OWN HANDS!
AS HUMAN BEINGS, AS CREATURES BORN OF THIS EARTH... DON'T YOU SEE WE'VE FORGOTTEN SOME FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS?
WE ARE ON THE EDGE OF A PRECIPICE! HOW CAN YOU CALL THIS PITIFUL STATE OF AFFAIRS A "CIVILIZED SOCIETY?"


HE SEEMS TO SAY.. WE'RE NOT HUMAN BEINGS ANYMORE, DON'T YOU THINK?
CAN YOU MAKE ANY SENSE OF WHAT HE'S SAYING?
THIS IS THE PARADOX STARING US IN THE FACE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
LOOK OUT OF THAT WINDOW!
THEY'RE POLLUTING THE ATMOSPHERE! YOU'RE ALL DOCTORS, YOU SHOULD ALL BE AWARE OF THE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES WROUGHT ON THE HUMAN ORGANISM BY THIS SITUATION!
OUR CARS' EXHAUST FUMES, OUR FACTORIES' SMOKESTACKS ARE CAUSING THIS!
TODAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SUNNY! NOT A CLOUD IN SIGHT! BUT... DOES THE SKY LOOK BLUE TO YOU? YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SKY BECAUSE OF THE SMOG! THE SKY'S POLLUTED! THE AIR IS FILTHY!
AND WHO'S BUILDING THOSE CARS? WHO'S MAKING THOSE FACTORIES BELCH OUT THEIR POISON? IT'S US! US HUMAN BEINGS!

SHOULD WE BLAME THE AUTOMOBILES? THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS?
AND WHO DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THIS HORROR?
AND THIS NUMBERS ARE ONLY GOING TO INCREASE! IF A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE DIED UNDER ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCE, EVERYBODY WOULD BE UP IN ARMS ABOUT IT!
BUT WE KEEP IGNORING THESE FRIGHTFUL FIGURES!
LAST YEAR ALONE, 14253 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS...
THE CORRUPTION OF SOCIETY, THE CARNAGE ON THE ROAD, THE SKY FULL OF SMOG... HAS ALL OF THIS JUST HAPPENED OVERNIGHT? OUT OF THE BLUE?
SHOULD WE BLAME THE POLITICIANS? WHILE WE'RE DOING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT THIS OURSELVES?
I BET HE DOES! HE'S SCREAMING LIKE AN HYSTERICAL TEENAGER!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?
JUST WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT, PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA?
...A HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CLUB OR SOMETHING?
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THIS CIVILIZATION, THIS MONSTROSITY WE'VE BUILT, WILL END UP DESTROYING US!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M SCREAMING AND NOBODY LISTENS! WE CANNOT EVEN SEE THE SUN ANYMORE! POLLUTED RIVERS! POLLUTED WATER! POLLUTED SKIES! I COULD GO ON FOREVER!

I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU THINK!
I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO DISCUSS!
THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS!
HOLD ON A MINUTE, PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA!
WHO CARES ABOUT SOCIETY! ALL I CARE ABOUT IS NATURE! LET'S GO BACK TO NATURE!
YOUR WORDS ARE OFFENSIVE TO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE!
YOU MAY REGRET MAKING THAT STATEMENT, YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE LIKE A CHILD! YOU'RE JUST ARGUING FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUING!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO COME UP WITH! I'M HERE TO MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT THIS PROBLEM!
WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH EMPTY TALK FROM YOU, PROFESSOR!
CONCRETE PROPOSALS!
GIVE US CONCRETE PROPOSALS!

####
ACT LIKE A GROWN-UP!
F- FOOLS? W-WHO'RE YOU CALLING A FOOL?!
YOU POMP-OUS FOOLS!
ADMIT YOUR MIS-TAKES!
I WANT YOU TO THINK!
I WANT YOU TO UNDER-STAND!
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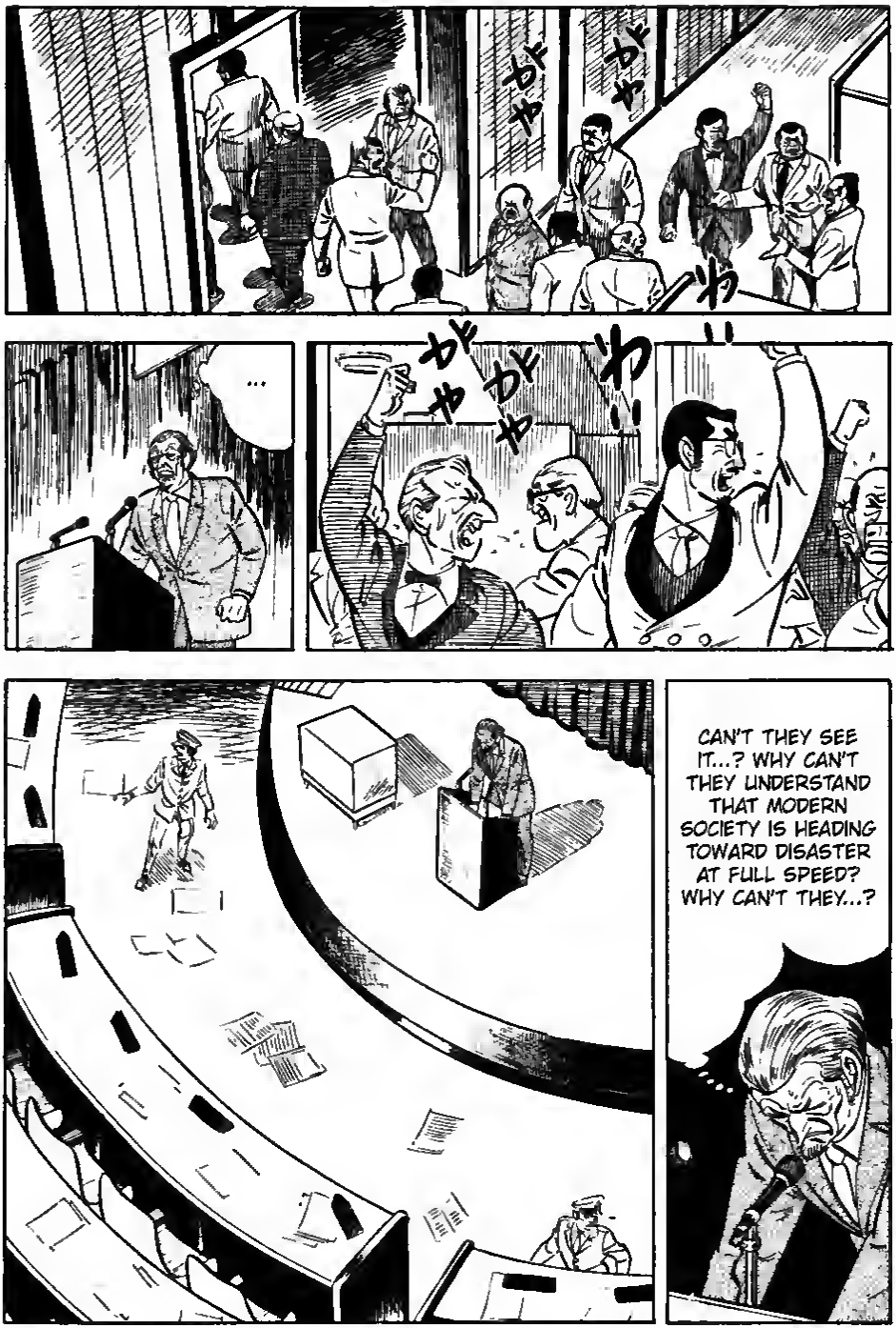
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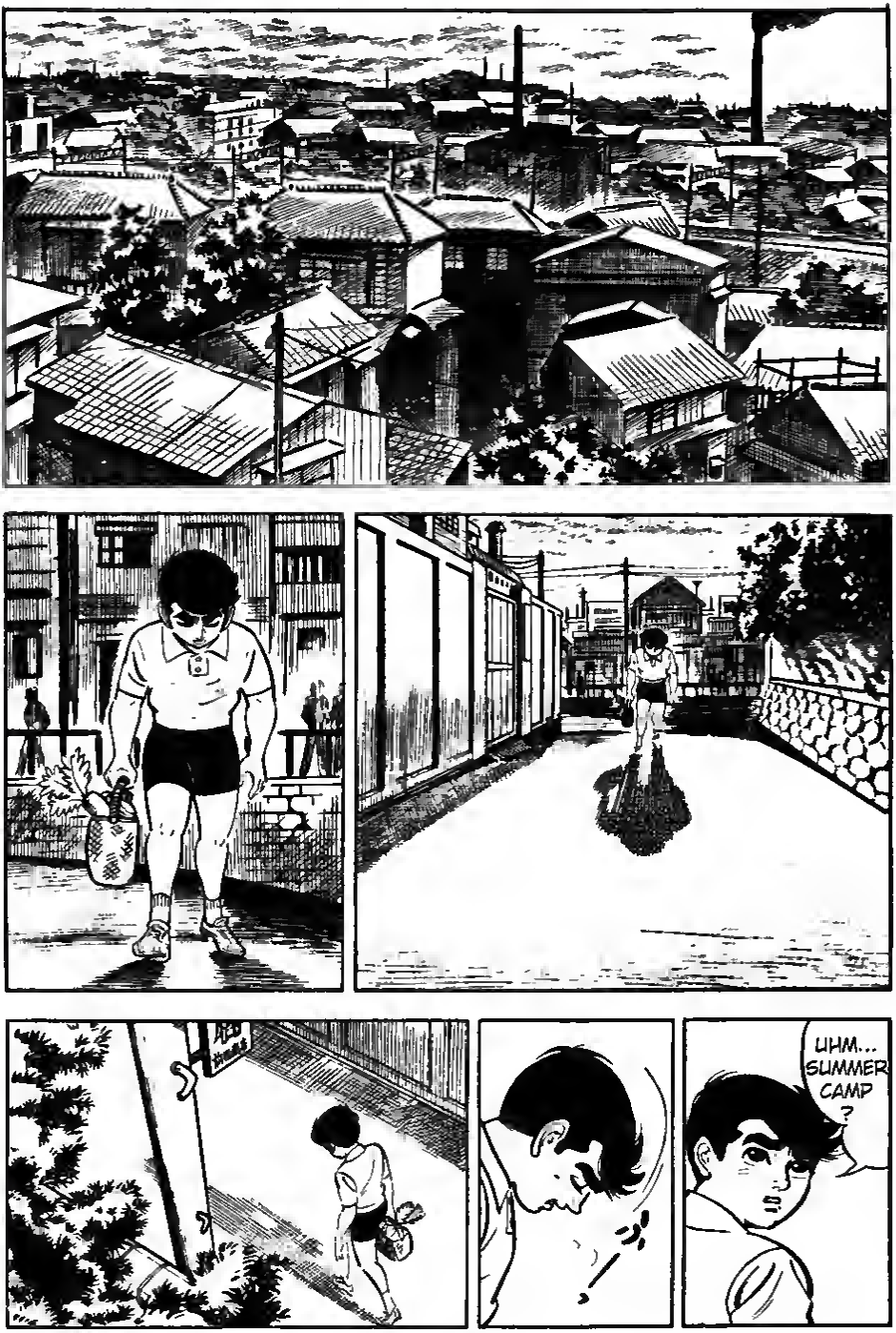
CAN'T THEY SEE IT...? WHY CAN'T THEY UNDERSTAND THAT MODERN SOCIETY IS HEADING TOWARD DISASTER AT FULL SPEED? WHY CAN'T THEY...?


UHM... SUMMER CAMP ?

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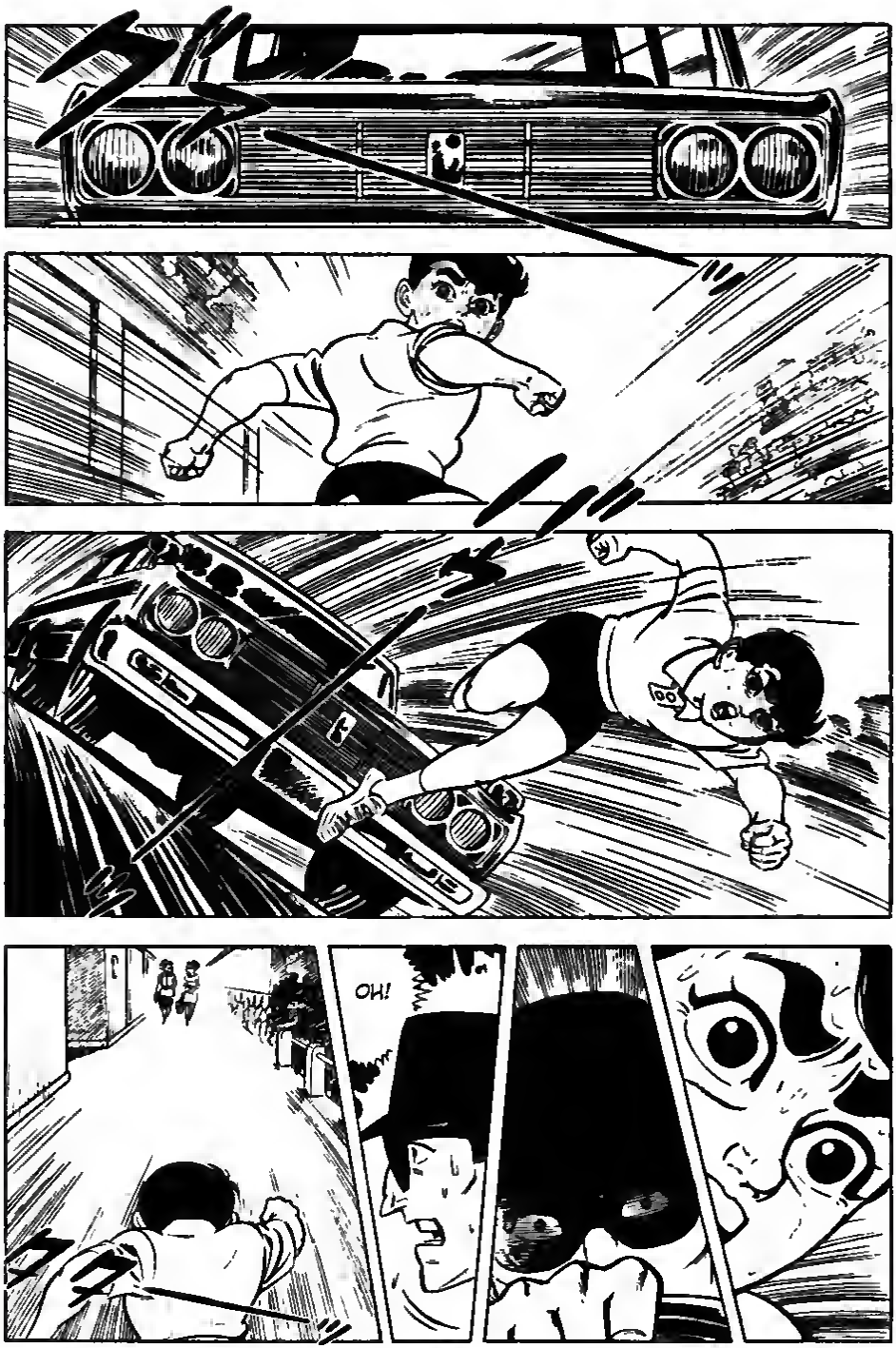
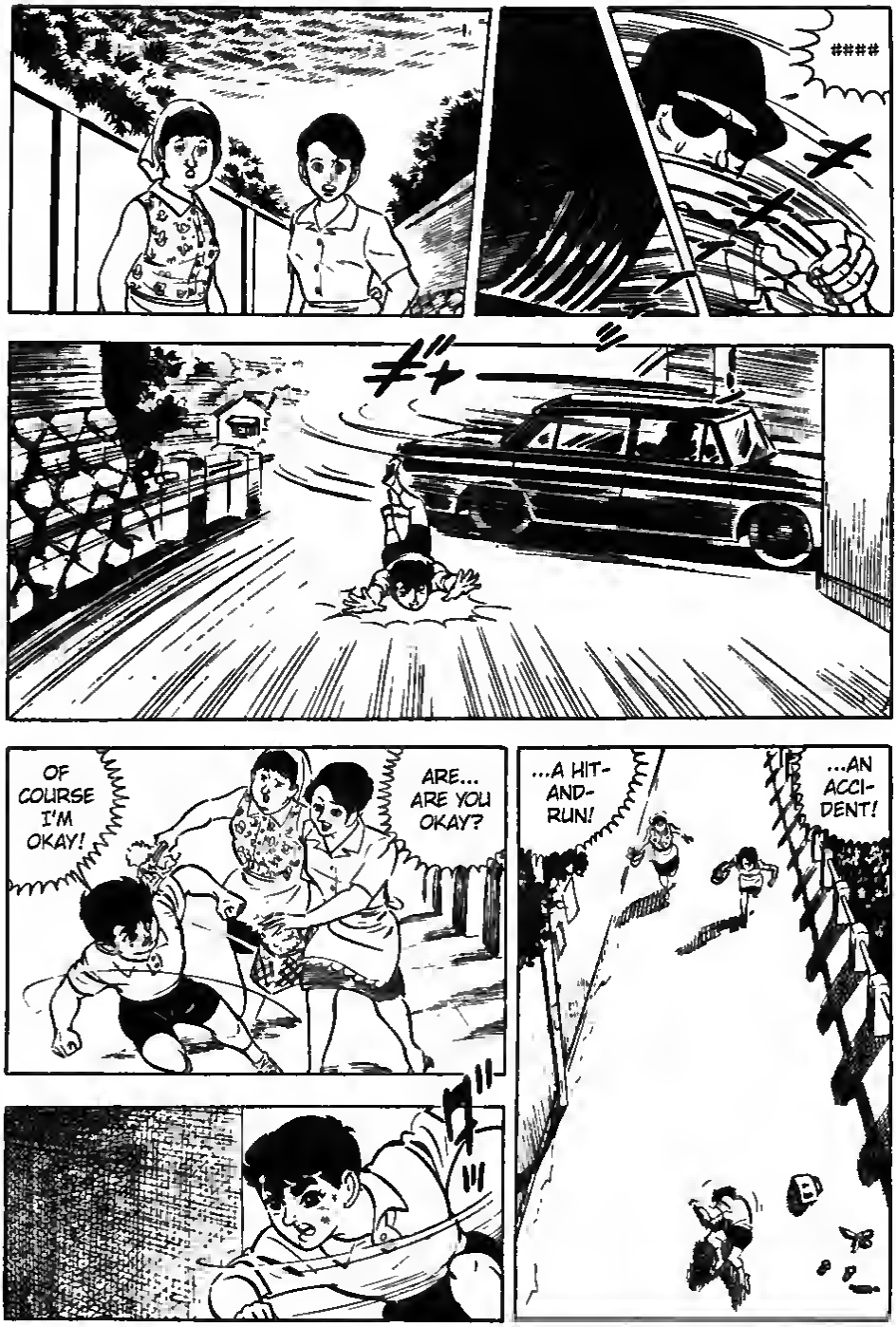
AAHH!

キキキキ
DAM-MIT!
ギャー
キキキ


OH!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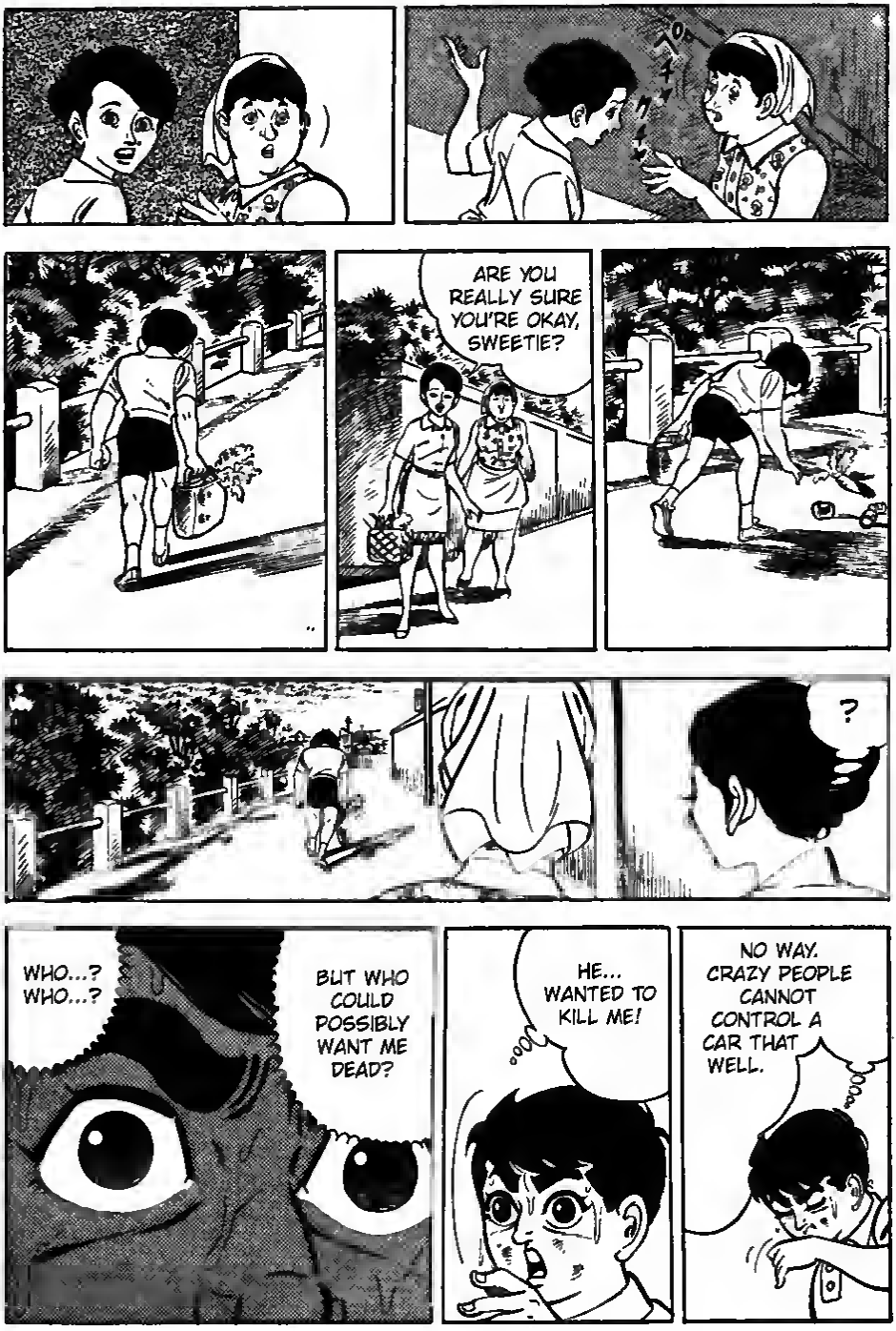
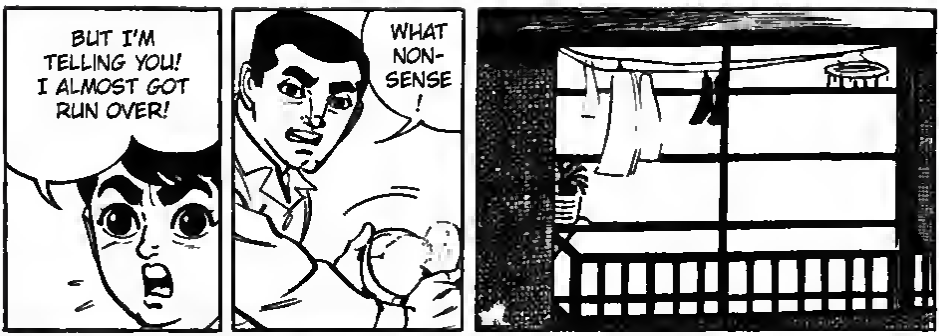
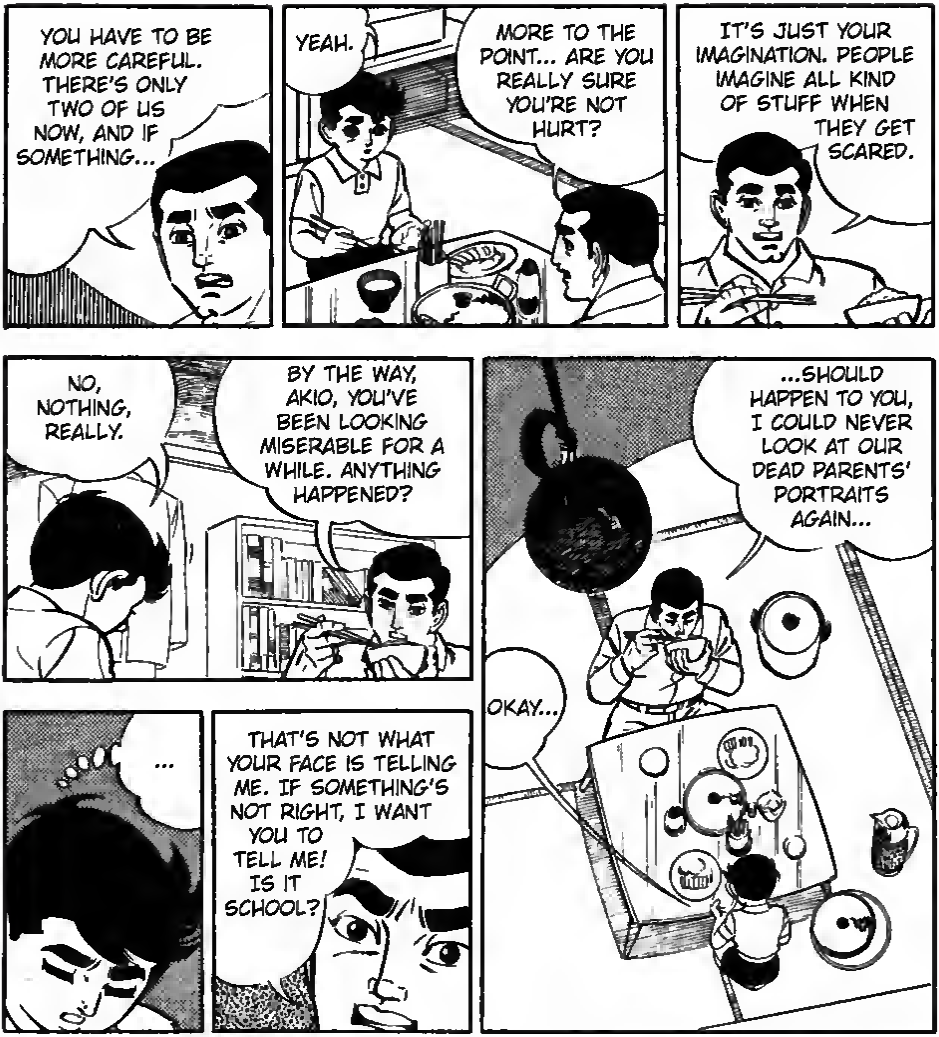
OF COURSE I'M OKAY!
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
...A HIT-AND-RUN!
...AN ACCI-DENT!

...
I THINK HE'D SMEARED IT WITH DIRT ON PURPOSE...
I... COULDN'T READ IT.
DID... DID YOU GET HIS LICENCE PLATE NUMBER ?
YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT !
THAT CAR HAD A RAVING LUNATIC AT THE WHEEL!
...
SO TRUE!
WHAT A TERRIBLE DRIVER! HE GAVE ME SUCH A SCARE!
WHY ON EARTH DID HE TRY TO RUN ME OVER? WAS HE CRAZY OR SOMETHING ?
NOT MUCH WE CAN DO ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
I'M STILL SHAKING!
THAT CAR... TRIED TO HIT ME!

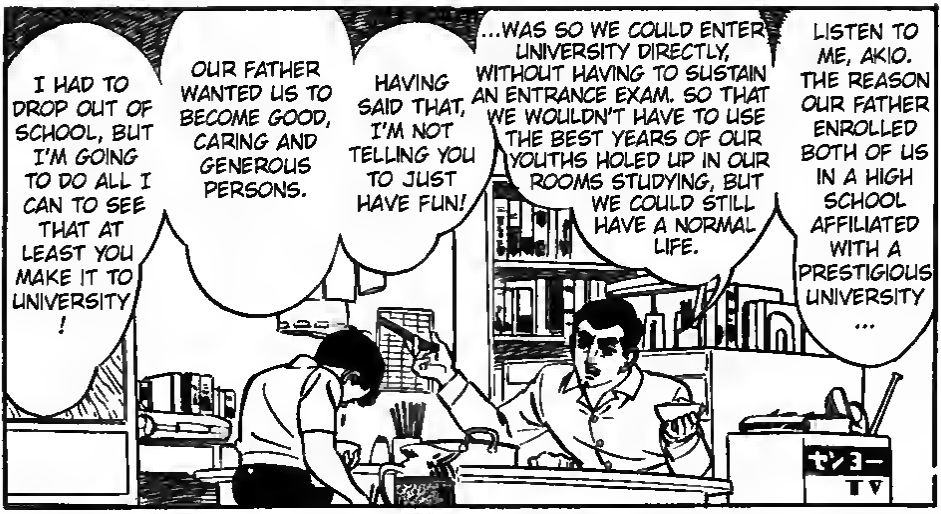

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE OKAY, SWEETIE?
?
WHO...? WHO...?
BUT WHO COULD POSSIBLY WANT ME DEAD?
HE... WANTED TO KILL ME!
NO WAY. CRAZY PEOPLE CANNOT CONTROL A CAR THAT WELL.

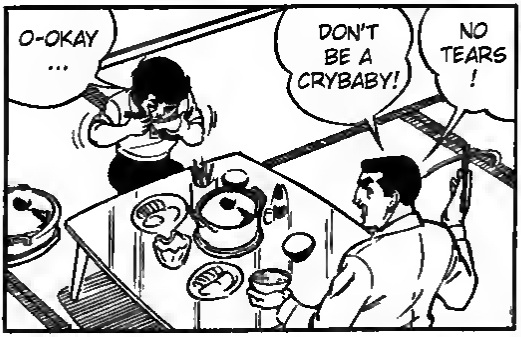

BUT I'M TELLING YOU! I ALMOST GOT RUN OVER!
WHAT NON-SENSE!

****
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO KILL YOU!


YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL. THERE'S ONLY TWO OF US NOW, AND IF SOMETHING...
YEAH.
MORE TO THE POINT... ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT?
IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION. PEOPLE IMAGINE ALL KIND OF STUFF WHEN THEY GET SCARED.
NO, NOTHING, REALLY.
BY THE WAY, AKIO, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING MISERABLE FOR A WHILE. ANYTHING HAPPENED?
...SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU, I COULD NEVER LOOK AT OUR DEAD PARENTS' PORTRAITS AGAIN...
OKAY...
...
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR FACE IS TELLING ME. IF SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME! IS IT SCHOOL?
WHAT...? WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
WELL... I WAS THINKING OF CHANGING SCHOOLS. DO YOU THINK I COULD TRANSFER TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL ?
AKIO !

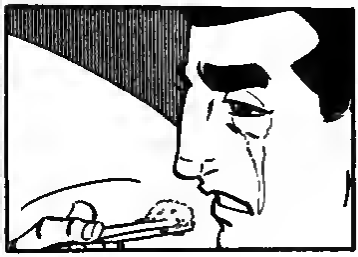
SO... THIS IS WHAT WAS ON YOUR MIND, EH?
BUT IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL ...
IN SIXTH GRADE TUITION FEES WILL GO UP A LOT... AND EVEN MORE IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YES, BUT THIS MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU. SUMMER CAMP FEES, MONEY FOR THE NEW SCIENCE ROOM... AND SOON THE ADVANCE PAYMENT ON NEXT YEAR'S TUITION FEES...
HAVEN'T I TAKEN CARE OF ALL PROBLEMS UNTIL NOW?
LET YOUR BIG BROTHER WORRY ABOUT THIS, YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT YOUR GRADES.
...
NO WAY! I WANT YOU TO GO!
BUT SUMMER CAMP IS NOT MANDATORY, SO I'M GOING TO SKIP IT...
110.000 YEN.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THESE DETAILS. HOW MUCH WILL YOU NEED?
I'M COSTING YOU ENOUGH MONEY AS IT IS... I DON'T NEED A GOOD SCHOOL ...
YOU NEVER GO TO THE MOVIES OR TO BASEBALL GAMES, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND... ALL FOR MY SAKE...
BUT THEN, YOUR WHOLE SALARY, BONUS INCLUDED, WILL GO TO PAY MY SCHOOL FEES... ALL THE MONEY YOU EARNED...

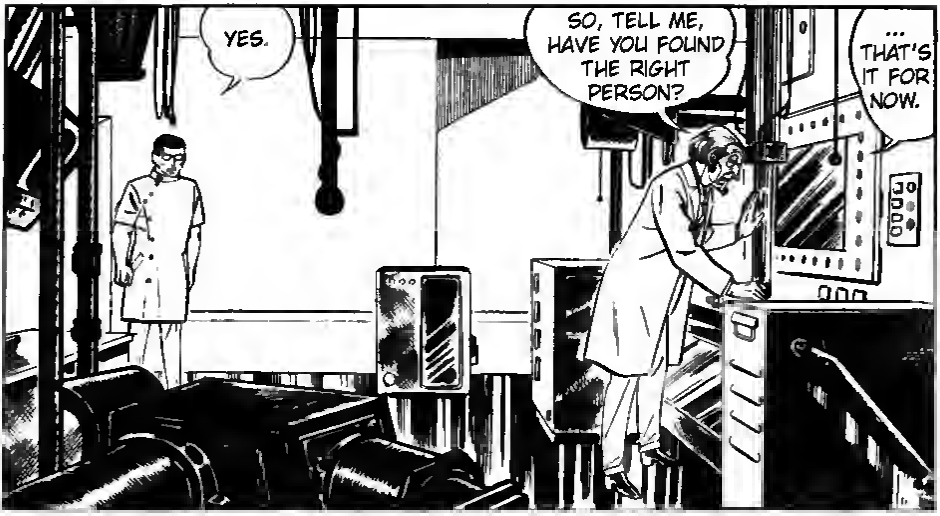

I HAD TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL, BUT I'M GOING TO DO ALL I CAN TO SEE THAT AT LEAST YOU MAKE IT TO UNIVERSITY !
OUR FATHER WANTED US TO BECOME GOOD, CARING AND GENEROUS PERSONS.
HAVING SAID THAT, I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO JUST HAVE FUN!
...WAS SO WE COULD ENTER UNIVERSITY DIRECTLY, WITHOUT HAVING TO SUSTAIN AN ENTRANCE EXAM. SO THAT WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO USE THE BEST YEARS OF OUR YOUTHS HOLED UP IN OUR ROOMS STUDYING, BUT WE COULD STILL HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.
LISTEN TO ME, AKIO. THE REASON OUR FATHER ENROLLED BOTH OF US IN A HIGH SCHOOL AFFILIATED WITH A PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY ...

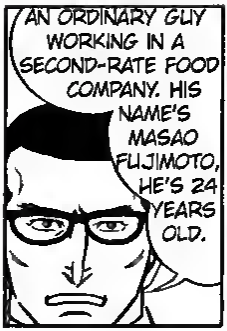

O-OKAY ...
DON'T BE A CRYBABY!
NO TEARS !

THANK.. YOU... SO...

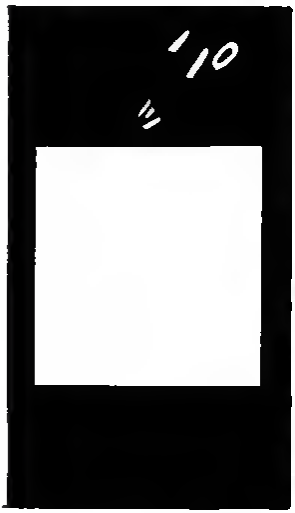
IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I'M WORKING FOR YOUR FUTURE.




YES.
SO, TELL ME, HAVE YOU FOUND THE RIGHT PERSON?
... THAT'S IT FOR NOW.


AN ORDINARY GUY WORKING IN A SECOND-RATE FOOD COMPANY. HIS NAME'S MASAO FUJIMOTO, HE'S 24 YEARS OLD.

THIS IS OUR MAN...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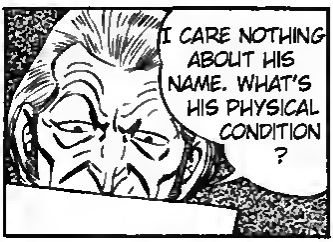
...LET ME SHOW YOU HIS CHEST X-RAYS.


I CARE NOTHING ABOUT HIS NAME. WHAT'S HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION ?

FIRST ...
ER... QUITE EXTRAORDINARY, ACTUALLY, SIR.

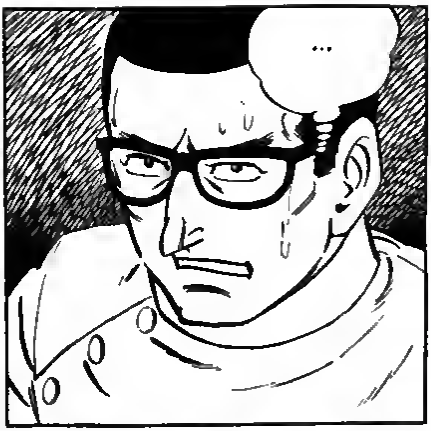
HIS VENTILATORY FUNCTION MEASURED BY HUTCHINSON'S SPIROMETER IS 4.8!
UHM... THAT RIB CAGE, THOSE LUNGS ...
....
THIS GUY IS A PERFECT NOBODY BUT... I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN I SAW THESE X-RAYS.
UHM...
THAT'S TRUE. WHICH IN TURN WOULD MAGNIFY HIS METABOLIC REACTIONS TO AN UN-IMAGINABLE DEGREE.
THAT'S AMAZING! WITH A PAIR OF LUNGS LIKE THOSE IT'LL BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE PULMONARY FUNCTIONS TO THEIR HIGHEST LEVELS.
TELL ME MORE ABOUT HIM...
I WAS SHOWN THEM BY FRIEND OF MINE WHO CONDUCTS REGULAR MEDICAL CHECKUPS ON HIS COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES.
... SUCCESS IS GUAR-ANTEED !
IT IS TRUE. AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I'VE PORED OVER THESE DATA FOR A MONTH AND EXAMINED EVERY DETAIL. WITH HIM...
THAT SOUNDS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
HE'S QUIET AND HARDWORKING, NO HOBBIES, NO RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS. AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S IN TOP PHYSICAL FORM AND DOESN'T HAVE ANY HEREDITARY DISEASES OR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

HIS PARENTS DIED WHEN HE WAS IN NINTH GRADE AND, HAVING NO LIVING RELATIVES, HE HAD TO DROP OUT OF HIGH-SCHOOL.
WELL...
WHAT ABOUT HIS FAMILY?
THIS TIME WE JUST CANNOT REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES WE MADE WITH KIMURA.
HE IS! YOU COULD SAY HE'S A ROBOT IN HUMAN SKIN.
UHM... THEN HE'S REALLY THE IDEAL CANDIDATE!
T-THAT'S... RIGHT.
...REALLY? NO LIVING RELATIVES?
ACTUALLY, HE WAS PERFECTLY AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF THIS EXPERIMENT.
KIMURA WAS ALSO A DOCTOR, AND ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS. HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO EXPECT!
KIMURA...
EVEN THOUGH HE'D FORMALLY AGREED TO THE EXPERIMENT, HE NEVER REALLY OVERCAME HIS FEARS...
I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK HOW CLOSE WE WERE TO SUCCESS...
EVEN IF HE WAS NOT VERY SCARED...

...
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE WITH HIM INSTEAD OF IN THE LAB.
...
IF HE JUST HADN'T PANICKED... IF HE JUST...
...
TERROR PUSHED HIM OVER THE EDGE. HE WAS HALLUCINATING. AND GIVEN HIS SIZE, THERE WAS NOTHING ANYONE COULD'VE DONE.
NO. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT EVEN YOU COULD'VE STOPPED HIM.
I WAS HIS FRIEND... I THINK I COULD'VE CONVINCED HIM...
LEAVE IT TO ME. I'M SURE I CAN CONVINCE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE.
WELL THEN, LET'S PROCEED, KOJO.
FUJIMOTO IS VERY DOCILE, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR IN THAT RESPECT.
BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD ONE MORE FAILURE. WE JUST CAN'T!
UNDER-STOOD, PRO-FESSOR.
I WON'T TOLERATE VIOLENCE OR DECEPTION, THOUGH. I WANT HIM TO COOPERATE OF HIS OWN ACCORD.

WONDERFUL! THE SUCCESS OF MY PLAN IS NOW GUARANTEED!
A ROBOT IN A HUMAN BODY WITH NO LIVING RELATIVES...

ALL THANKS TO ME!
MANKIND WILL BE SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION AND RESTORED TO HIS NATURAL FORM!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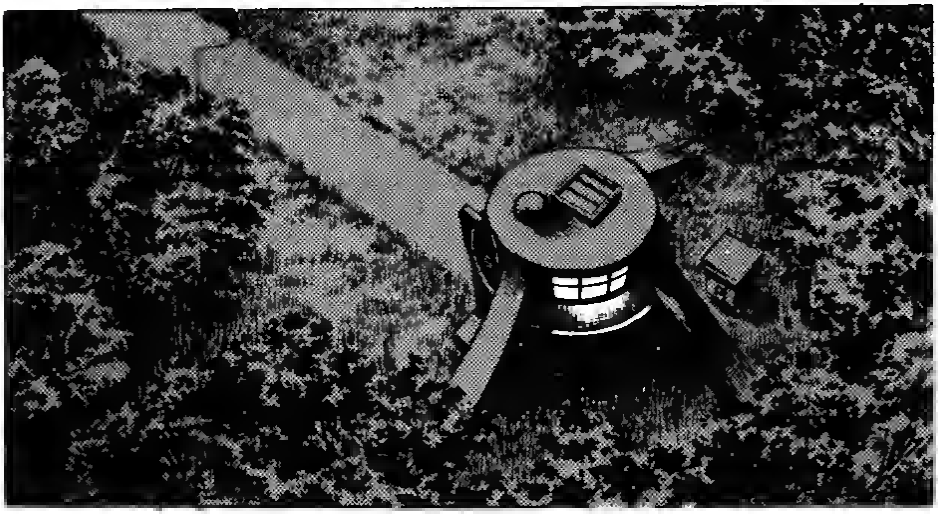
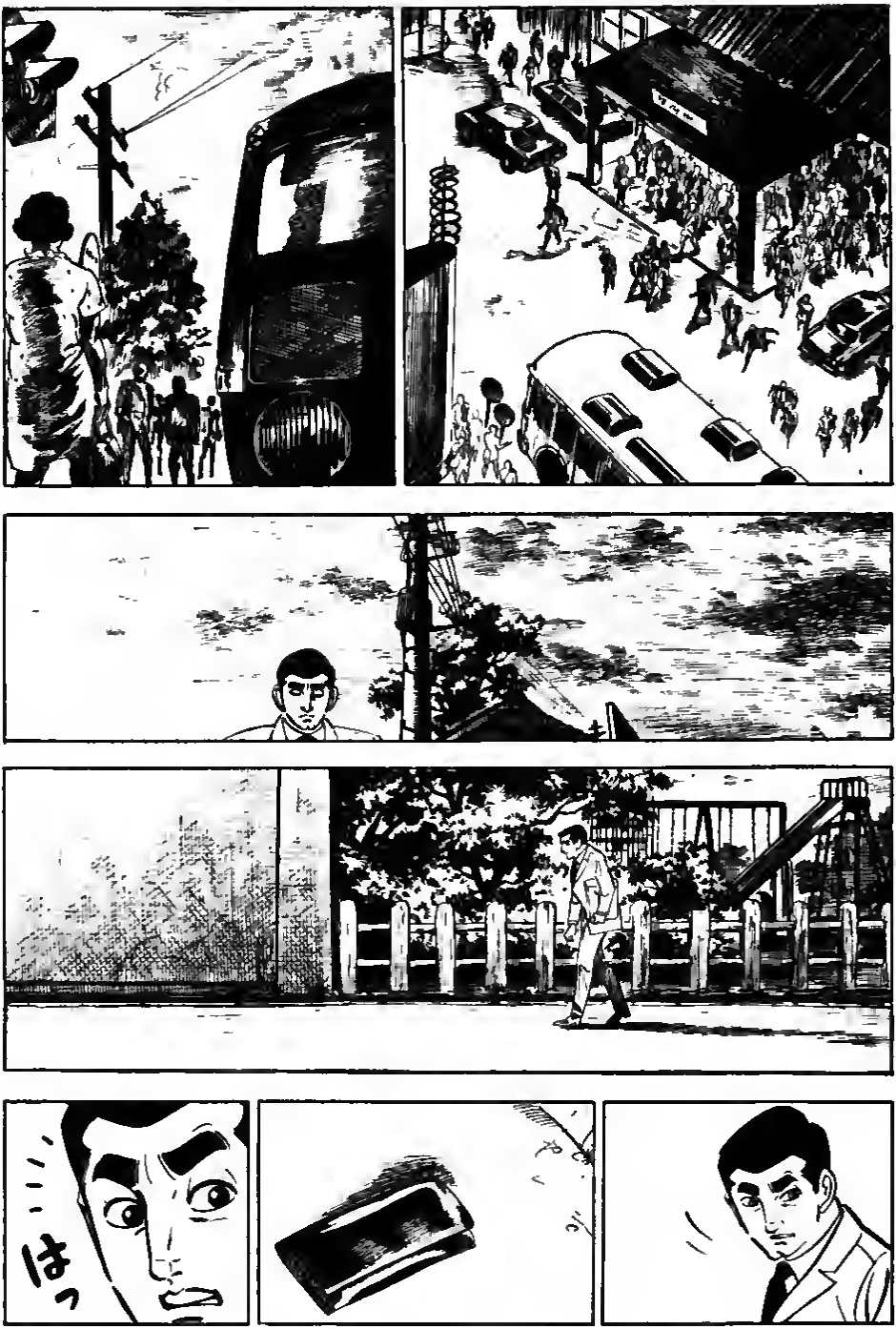


ASAHI! READYMADE MEALS FOR EVERYONE!
ASAHI FOOD PRODUCTS
WILL LIVEN UP YOU SUMMER!

YES, SEE YOU.
SEE YOU LATER, FUJI-MOTO.
TRUE. A REAL NO-BODY.
NO SPARK WHATSOEVER. MR. MEDIOCRITY HIMSELF.
"YES, SEE YOU"... IH, IH, IH!
THAT FUJIMOTO IS SUCH A BORE... NEVER SAYS MUCH...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OH!
I...I CAN'T! I MUST NOT THINK LIKE THAT!
...3-300.000 YEN!

BUT... WITH THAT MONEY I COULD...
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トン!
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HOLD IT!
?
M-MANY THANKS.
OH ...
YOU DROPPED THIS!
...
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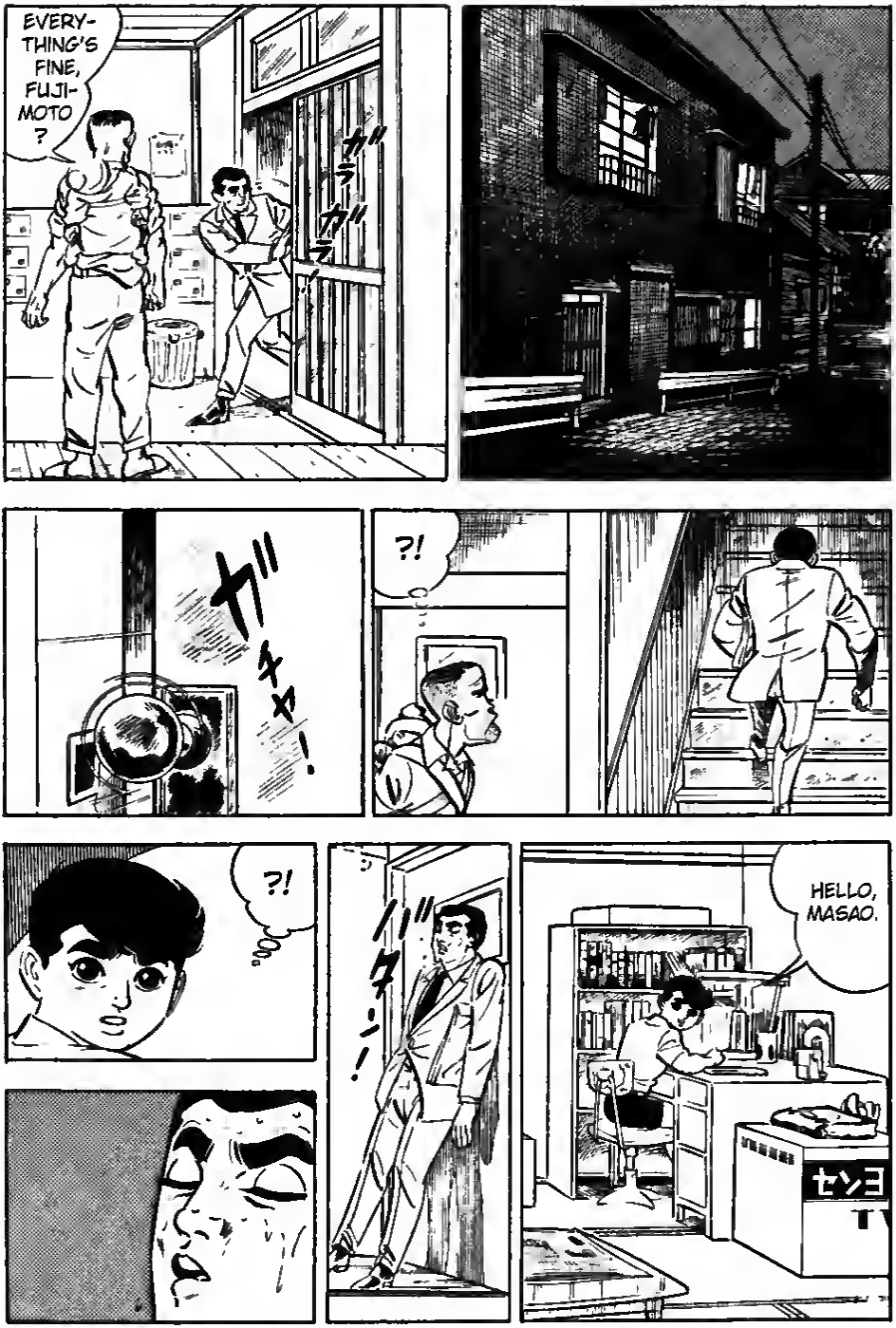
カチャ
カチャ


EVERY-
THING'S
FINE,
FUJI-
MOTO
?
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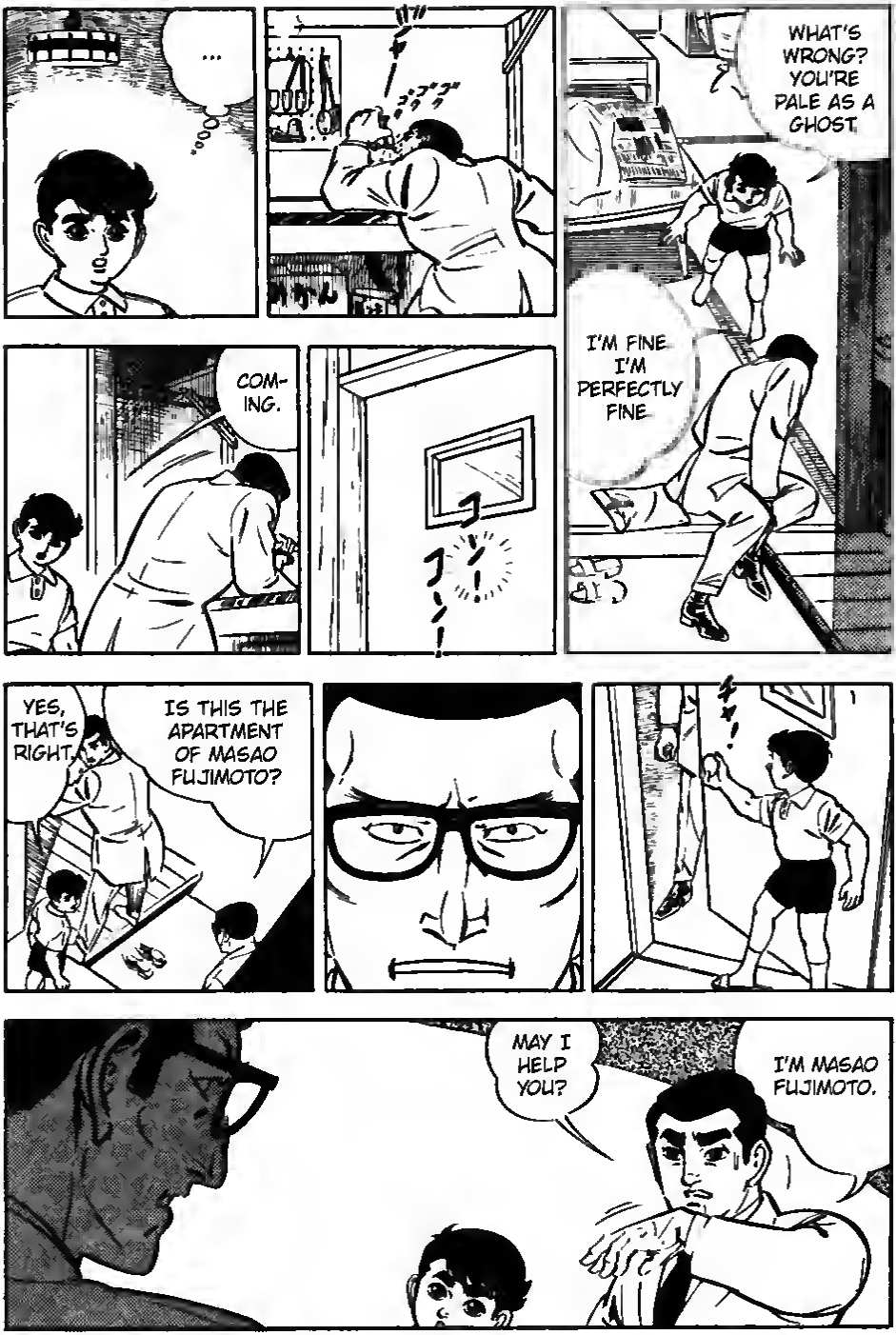
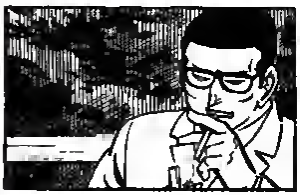
?!
?!
ハクション!
HELLO,
MASAO.
センヨ


...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST.
I'M FINE. I'M PERFECTLY FINE.
COM-ING.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THIS THE APARTMENT OF MASAO FUJIMOTO?
MAY I HELP YOU?
I'M MASAO FUJIMOTO.

HUH? I'M MASAO FUJIMOTO... AND YOU ARE...?
I WAS ASKED TO COME BY YOUR COMPANY'S PHYSICIAN, DR. SHIMIZU.
...DR. SHI-MIZU ?
KOBAYAGAWA FOUNDATION M.D. WATARU KOJO
古場 亘
I SEE ...
HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD.
PLEASE.
BUT... I...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME TO MEET HIM.
ACTUALLY, DR. SHIMIZU IS WAITING FOR US NOT FAR FROM HERE.
PLEASE, STEP INSIDE!
####
GO AHEAD AND HAVE DINNER BY YOURSELF.
OKAY.
WELL, THEN... I WON'T BE LONG, AKIO. SEE YOU SOON.



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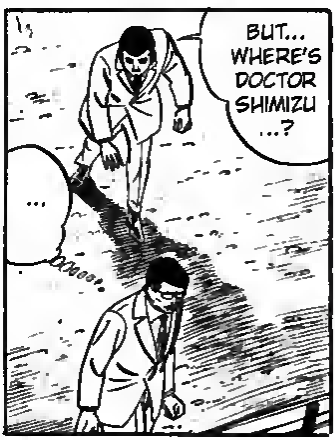
HUH ...?
WON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT, FUJIMOTO ?


BUT... WHERE'S DOCTOR SHIMIZU ...?
...
Doooo.

I WANT YOU TO HELP ME WITH AN IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT.
BUT ...
YOU SEE, I NEED YOUR HELP ABOUT AN IMPORTANT MATTER...
WE CHOSE YOU...
W-WHY ME...?
... BENEFIT MAN-KIND.
YES, A MEDICAL EXPERIMENT WHICH WILL GREATLY ...
... EXPERIMENT ?
YOU MEAN ...?
UH?
...IN VIRTUE OF YOUR TRULY SPECTACULAR PHYSICAL CONDITIONS.
...USE ME AS GUINEA PIG IN A MEDICAL EXPERIMENT ?
...YOU WANT TO...

IF YOU REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH OUR EXPERIMENT I'LL BE FORCED TO DO SOMETHING... UNPLEASANT.
33
SORRY I HAD TO LIE TO YOU ABOUT DOCTOR SHIMIZU...
WHAT ?
PLEASE, FUJIMOTO, TRY TO CALM DOWN.
LET ME TALK TO DOCTOR SHIMIZU. WHERE IS DOCTOR SHIMIZU?
IN THAT WALLET... THERE WAS A LOT OF MONEY.
HUH?
...PUNISHABLE BY ONE YEAR IN JAIL.
ACCORDING TO SECTION 354 OF THE PENAL CODE, NOT TURNING IN STOLEN OBJECTS TO THE POLICE AMOUNTS TO THEFT....
HE MUST'VE FOUND IT STRANGE. I'M SURE HE REMEMBERS YOUR FACE.
YOU RAN INTO A POLICEMAN, BUT YOU JUST WALKED OFF.
PLEASE, SPARE ME THAT SILLY EXCUSE.
I WAS... ON MY WAY TO THE POLICE-

YOUR REPUTATION WOULD BE DESTROYED... AND YOUR BROTHER'S DREAMS SHATTERED.
...
AND I'M READY TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOU.
COME ON, LET'S FORGET ALL ABOUT IT, FOR YOUR BROTHER'S SAKE TOO.
IF YOU TAKE PART IN THE EXPERIMENT, I'LL BE GLAD TO FORGET THE MATTER OF THE WALLET.
...THERE'S STILL A WAY TO FIX EVERY-THING.
HOW-EVER ...

...
I CAN PERSONALLY GUARANTEE THAT. AT NO TIME DURING THE EXPERIMENT WILL YOUR LIFE BE IN DANGER.
WHAT EFFECT WILL THE EXPERIMENT HAVE ON ME?
THINK OF IT AS VERY DETAILED MEDICAL CHECK UP.
YOU COULD SAY IT'S A KIND OF ...PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.
IT HAS TO DO WITH HOW... AN INDIVIDUAL REACTS IN A DETERMINED SITUATION.
IT DOESN'T INVOLVE ANY KIND OF SURGERY OR ANYTHING OF THE KIND.
...
THANK YOU, YOU JUST MADE MY DAY.
WILL YOU GIVE US A HAND ?
SORRY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT... THE MONEY...?
AHEM...
WELL THEN, IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME...
AND NOW, FUJIMOTO, LET ME TAKE YOU TO OUR LAB.
...

BUT I MUST TALK TO MY BROTHER FIRST, AND THEN... AT THE OFFICE...
OF COURSE, RIGHT NOW.
YOU MEAN... RIGHT NOW?
WHAT...?
BUT... BUT I...
...I WILL EXPLAIN THEM EVERYTHING PERSONALLY.
TALKING TO YOUR BROTHER WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR YOU. AS FOR YOUR FIRM...
BUT... I WANT TO TALK TO HIM IN PERSON...
I'LL DELIVER IT TO HIM IN PERSON.
OKAY, THEN. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR BROTHER.
...
THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY. OTHERWISE ...
YOU WILL WRITE HIM A LETTER.

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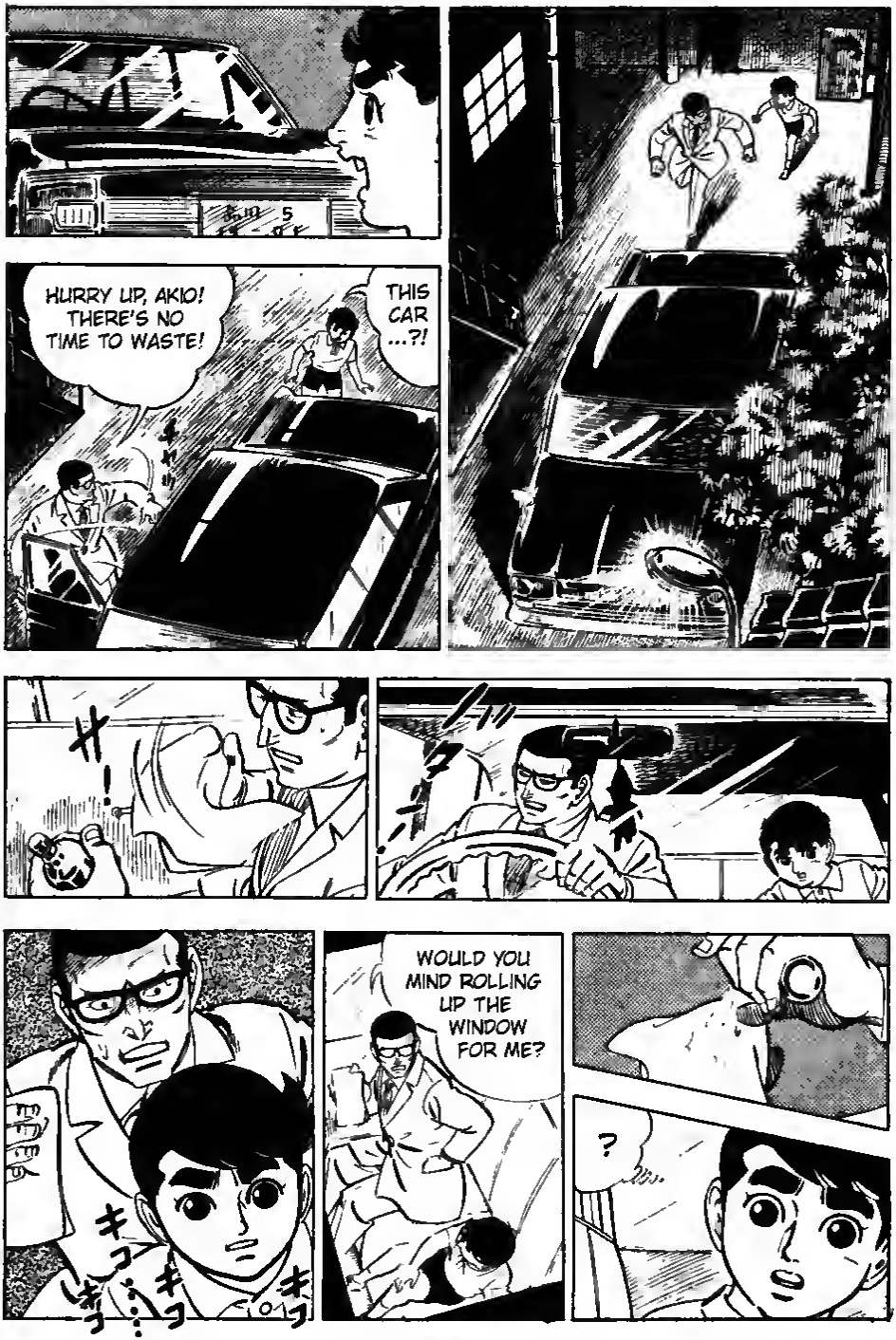
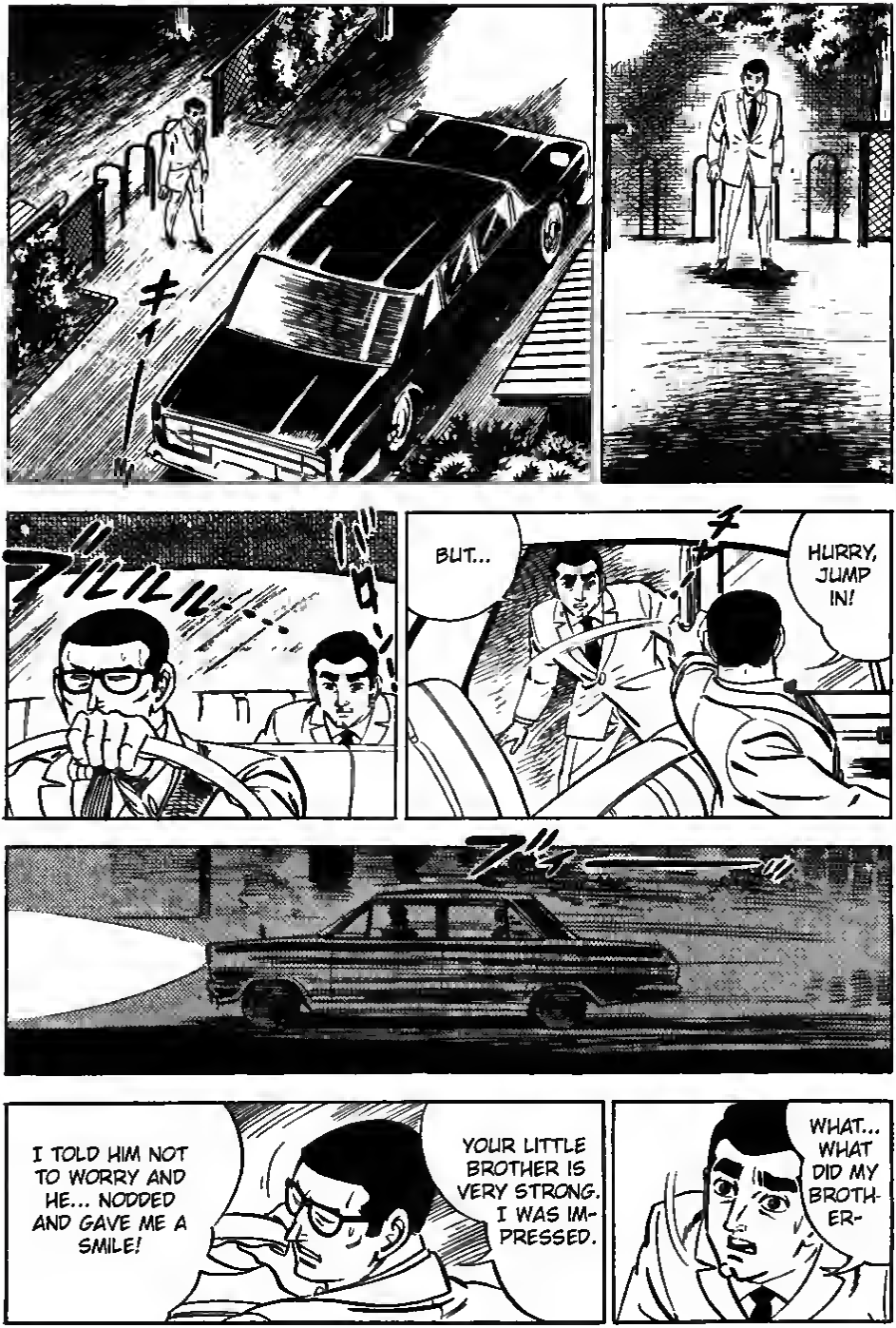
ゥゥゥゥ……
OH! NOW I REMEMBER WHO THAT GUY WAS!
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS FROM MY BROTHER...
HE LOOKED LIKE SOME KIND OF DOCTOR...
CONFERENCE HALL
JAPANESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
I MET HIM THAT DAY...

PLEASE, GIVE THIS MONEY TO MY BROTHER ...
SOMETHING URGENT HAS COME UP AND I WILL BE GONE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. HOPE YOU WON'T GET TOO LONELY. LOVE.
MY BROTHER?!
WHAT ?!
OH, AKIO. SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU BUT... YOUR BROTHER FELT SUDDENLY SICK AND HAD TO BE TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL.
H-HELLO !
S-SURE !
HURRY, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.


HURRY UP, AKIO! THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
THIS CAR ...?!
WOULD YOU MIND ROLLING UP THE WINDOW FOR ME?
?

NGHHH !!
UHNN !
...
PHEW!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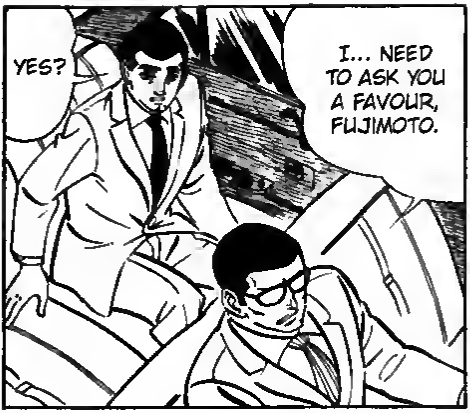
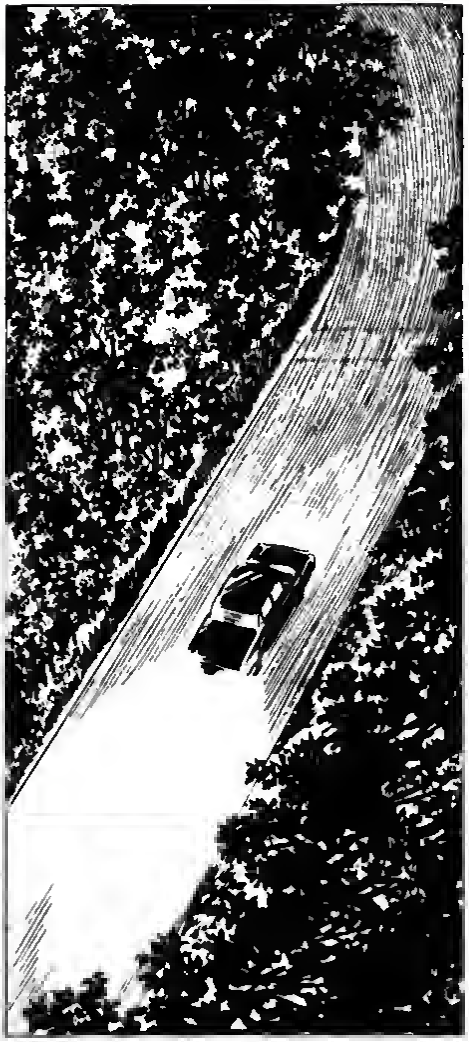
BUT...
HURRY, JUMP IN!
ブルン
I TOLD HIM NOT TO WORRY AND HE... NODDED AND GAVE ME A SMILE!
YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS VERY STRONG. I WAS IMPRESSED.
WHAT... WHAT DID MY BROTHER-

I'M... HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.


YES?
I... NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOUR, FUJIMOTO.

SEE... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE NO RELATIVES SO... WOULD YOU PLEASE REFRAIN FROM MENTIONING YOUR BROTHER?

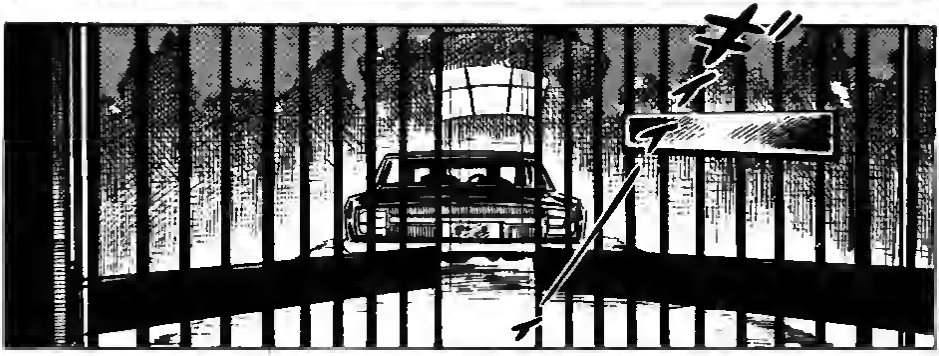
THE EXPERIMENT YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNDERGO, WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE UTMOST SECRECY.
HUH?



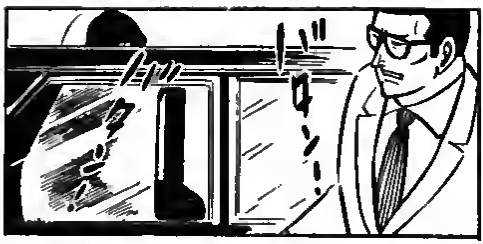
HAVING SAID THAT, THE EXPERIMENT ITSELF IS REALLY NO BIG DEAL.

YOU SEE... THIS EXPERIMENT IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF MANKIND BUT, IF USED FOR THE WRONG PURPOSES, THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE... SEVERE.

チラ！
...AND THAT'S WHY WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH NO LIVING RELATIVES.
...
WE'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE EXPERIMENT'S RESULTS FALLING IN THE WRONG HANDS....
SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY...



OKAY.
FOLLOW ME, PLEASE !



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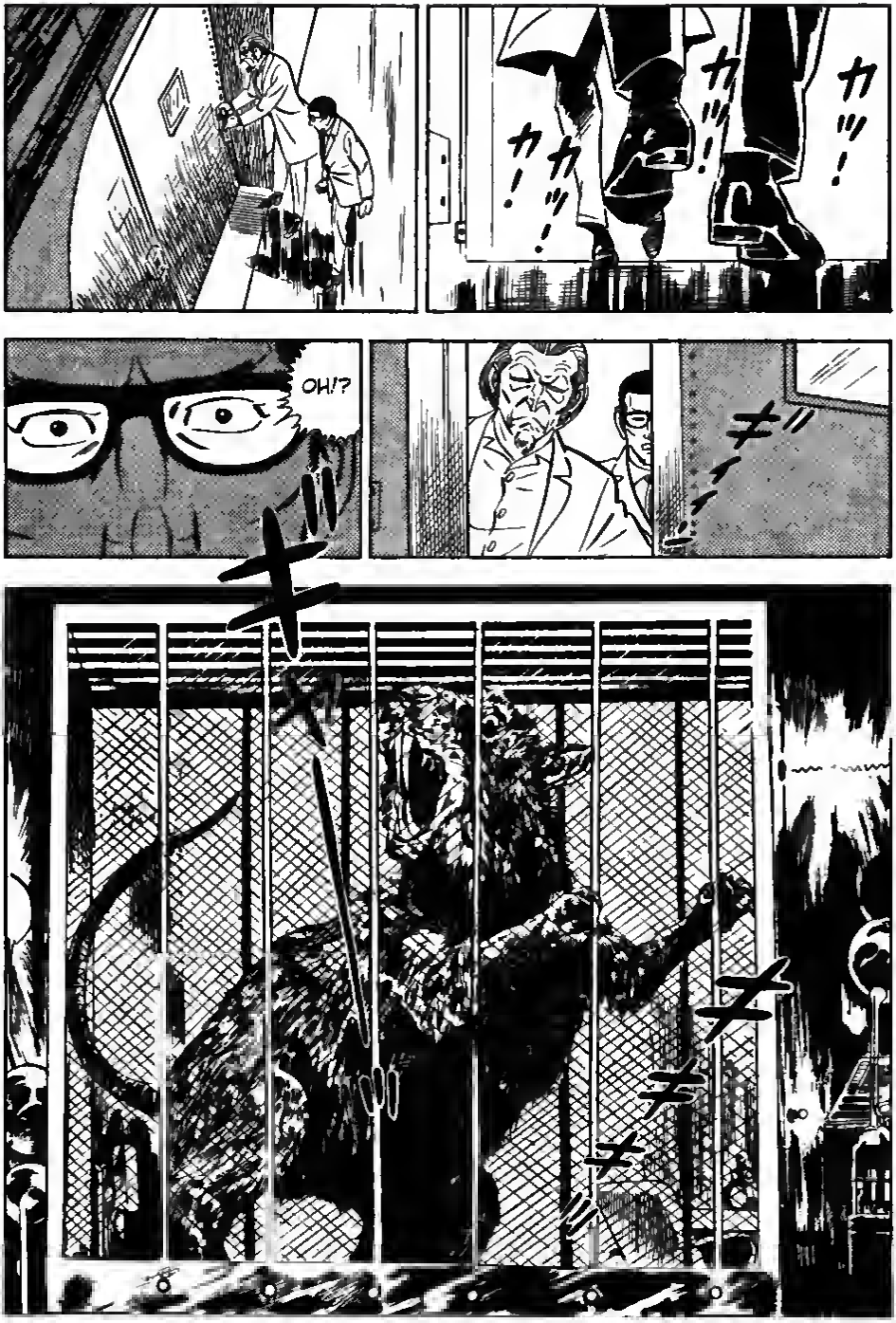
PLEASE WAIT FOR ME HERE.

...I HAVEN'T TOLD FUJIMOTO THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR PLAN.
... WHAT ?!
I'M GLAD HE ACCEPTED THE 30,000 YEN TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPERIMENT. THANKS, KOJO. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU.
AHEM... I...
WELL DONE!
HE'S HERE?
...YOU SEE, THE GUY'S JUST A BRAINLESS AUTOM-ATON...
I SEE... WELL, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE...
AND HE KNOWS THE EXPERIMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO MANKIND'S HAPPI-NESS.
UHM...
...AND ANYWAY, HE'S ALREADY AGREED TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPERIMENT.
HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND IF WE TOLD HIM NOW...
EH?
COME!
BY THE WAY, I WANT YOU TO SEE SOME-THING.
...
...I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE HIS INFORMED PRIOR CONSENT BUT...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OH!?

I DID IT, KOJO!
PRO-PROFES-SOR ...!
YES, I FINALLY MANAGED TO MAGNIFY THE ENERGY STORED IN A LIVING ORGANISM A HUNDRED THOUSAND TIMES, AND IN VIRTUE OF THAT TO INCREASE METABOLIC REACTIONS TO GIGANTIC PROPORTIONS.
THANK YOU, KOJO.
M-MY HEARTFELT CONGRATU-LATIONS, PROFES-SOR.
...WHICH MAKES HIM EASY TO CON-TROL.
EVEN OUT OF THE CULTURE ROOM, THERE SEEM TO BE NO SIDE-EFFECTS. HE WON'T GROW ANY BIGGER...
...ONLY IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. OUTSIDE THE CULTURE ROOM, THE METABOLISM WHICH...
AN ORGANISM WITH EVER-GROWING METABOLISM CAN BE KEPT IN CHECK...
...BUT THEN THE PROBLEMS HAD STARTED.
UNTIL NOW I HAD SUCCEEDED IN CAUSING THE CELLULAR AND THE SKELETAL STRUCTURE OF THE BODY TO ENLARGE EXPONENTIALLY ...
...HAD BEEN KEPT IN CHECK UNTIL THEN, WOULD SUDDENLY KICK OFF AND...
...THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN ENERGY WOULD CAUSE IT TO SELF COMBUST. JUST LIKE KIMURA...
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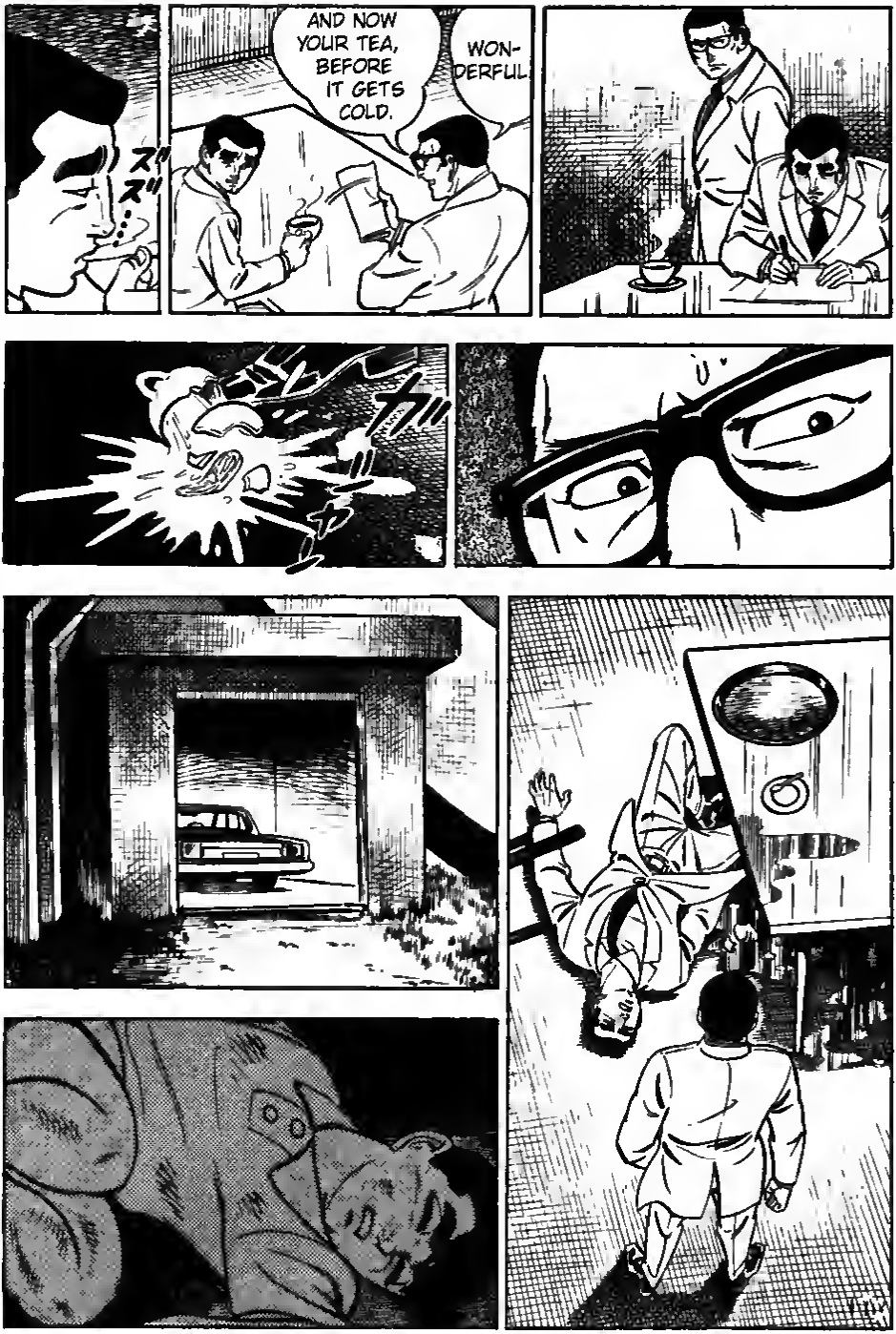
YOU DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN, MY FRIEND. OUR PLAN IS NOW COMPLETE.
KIMURA ...
GO, AS IN...
I UNDERSTAND CONTROL, BUT WHY...GO?
...AND I CALLED THIS GAS CONTROL-GO.
...
I PERFECTED A GAS WHICH LETS THE METABOLIC REACTIONS TAKE PLACE, BUT ALLOWS ME TO CONTROL THE INCREASE IN SIZE.
...
...KIMURA'S FIRST NAME, GORO.
...

チャ!
カチャ!
... OKAY.
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A CUP OF TEA AND TAKE A NAP?
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
HERE ...
協力誓約書
私は、小早川研究所の「人類の輝かしい未来」に協力することを誓います。
昭和○○年○月○日
小早川研究所所長殿
AGREEMENT
I PLEDGE MY COOPERATION TO THE "BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MANKIND" EXPERIMENT.
DAY MONTH-1969
KOBAYAGAWA LABORATORIES
I SEE ...
IT'S JUST A MERE FORMALITY.
BUT FIRST I'D LIKE YOU TO SIGN THIS AGREE-MENT.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AND NOW YOUR TEA, BEFORE IT GETS COLD.
WON-DERFUL.

WELL, IT'S MY JOB, AFTER ALL.
I SEE... I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
HE WANTS ME TO GO AT ONCE...
YES... FUJIMOTO ASKED ME TO SWING BY HIS APARTMENT... SOMETHING RELATED TO HIS JOB...
YOU WANT TO GO INTO TOWN, NOW?
WHAT ?
IT'S NOT ONLY THAT... I WANT TO MAKE IT AS EASY ON HIM AS POSSIBLE.
HE NEEDS A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP, THE EXPERIMENT IS THE MORN-ING.
GOOD.
...HE FELL ASLEEP IMMEDIATELY.
I-I GAVE HIM A TRANQUILLIZER AND...
HOW IS HE COPING?
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR ERRAND.
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

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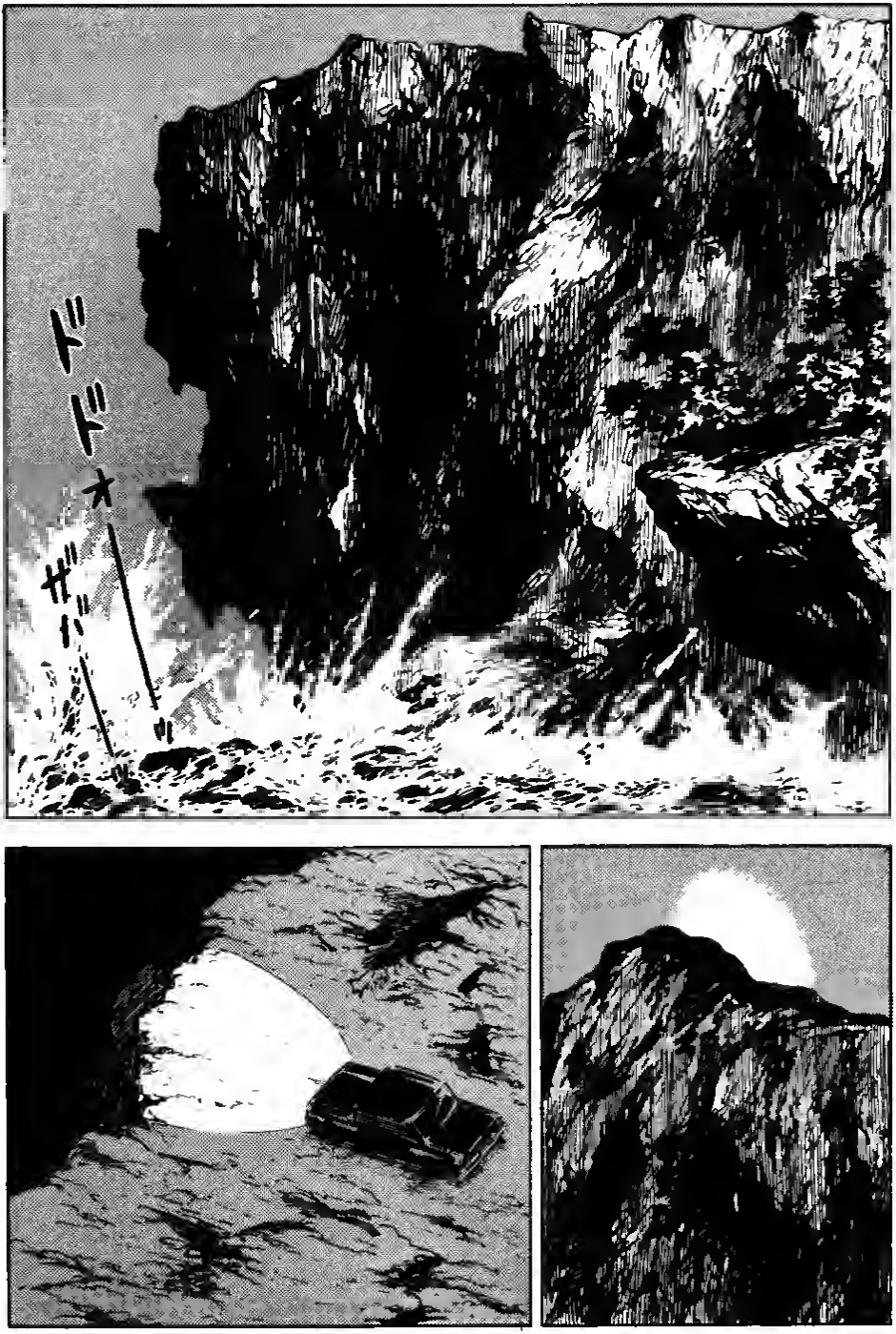
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PANT..
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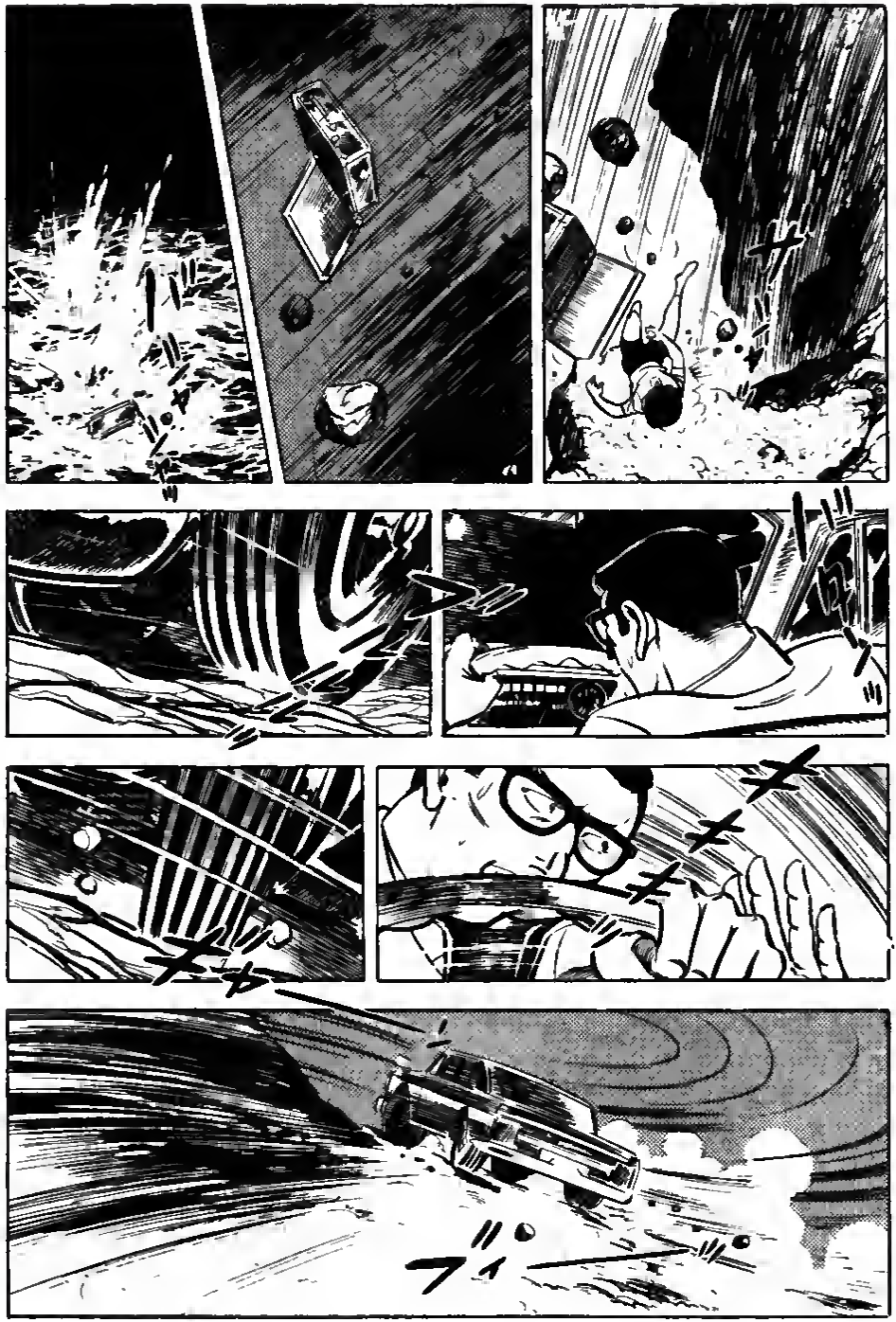
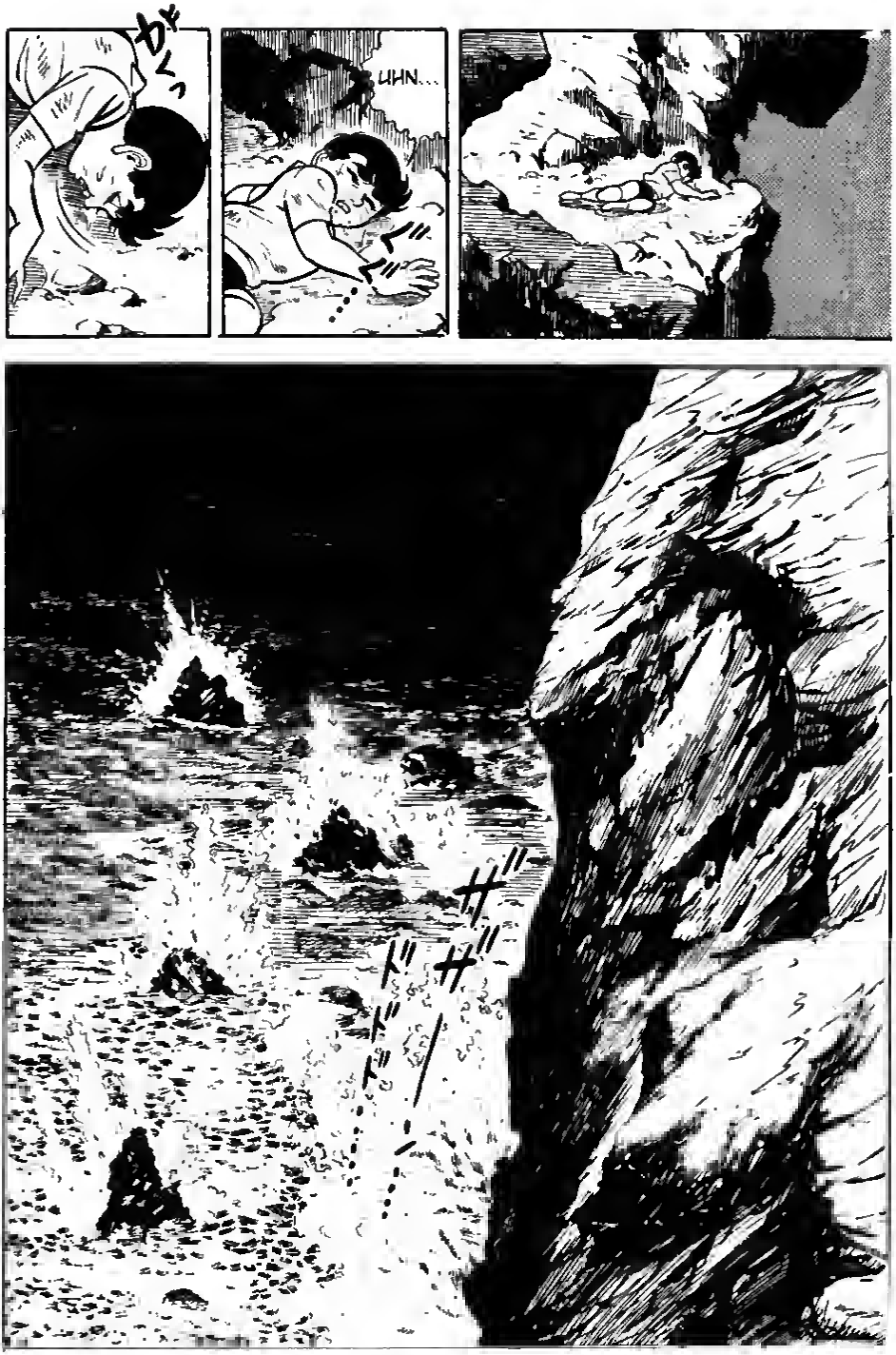
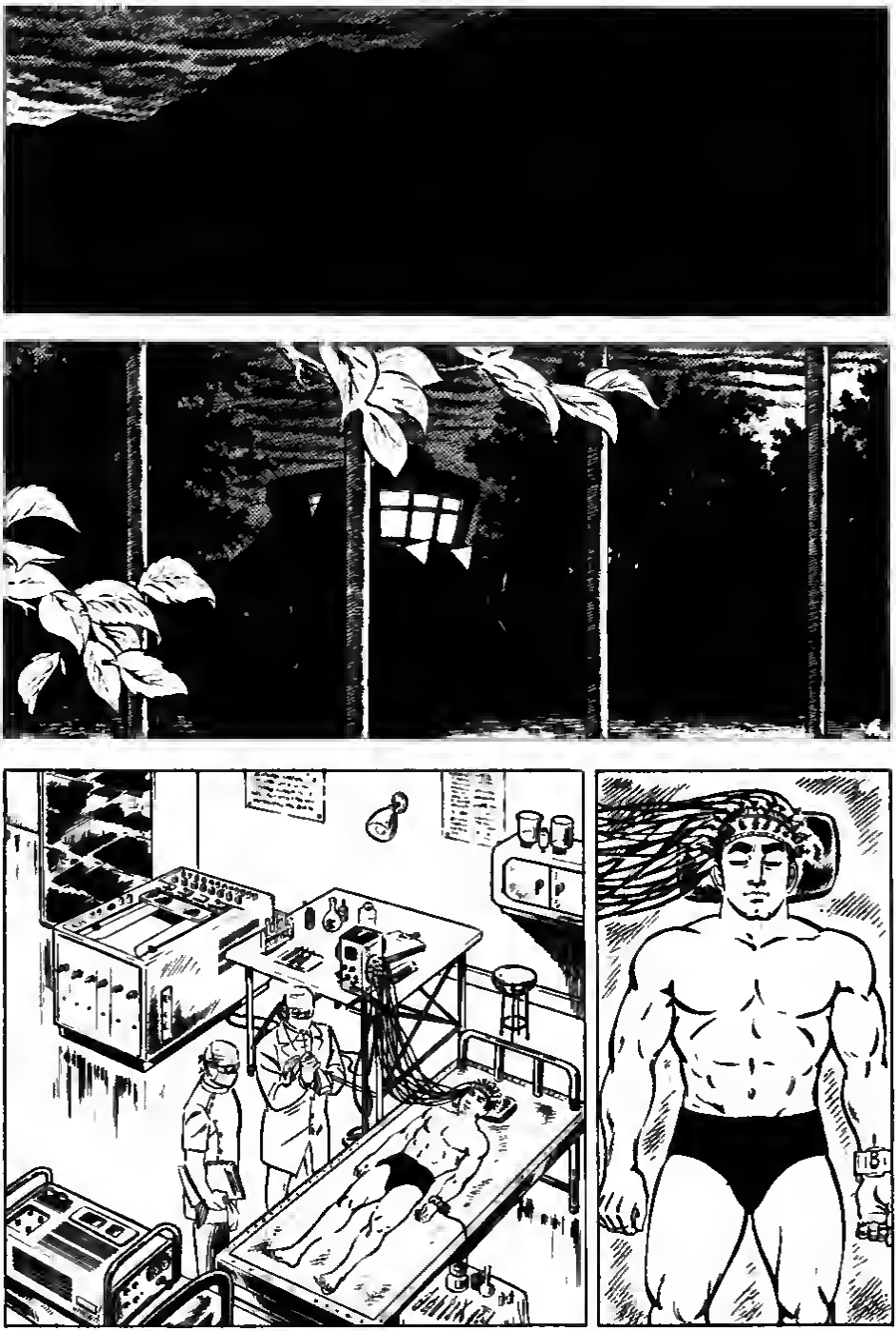



UHN...



...WE CAN START !
WELL, THEN ...
HE HASN'T INGESTED ANY FOOD SINCE 10 LAST NIGHT.
CONDITIONS OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM ?
I CANNOT DETECT ANY DELTA WAVES ...
HE SEEMS TO BE IN A STATE OF EXCITE-MENT ...
UHM... BETA WAVE ACTIVITY ...
NEGA-TIVE.
SYMPTOMS OF ANAEMIA?
~~NO CARDIAC~~ MALFUNCTION.. NO SIGN OF IRREGULAR HEART BEAT OR METABOLIC IRREGU-LARITIES..
ピピピ...
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WELL. THEN... TO THE CULTURE ROOM.

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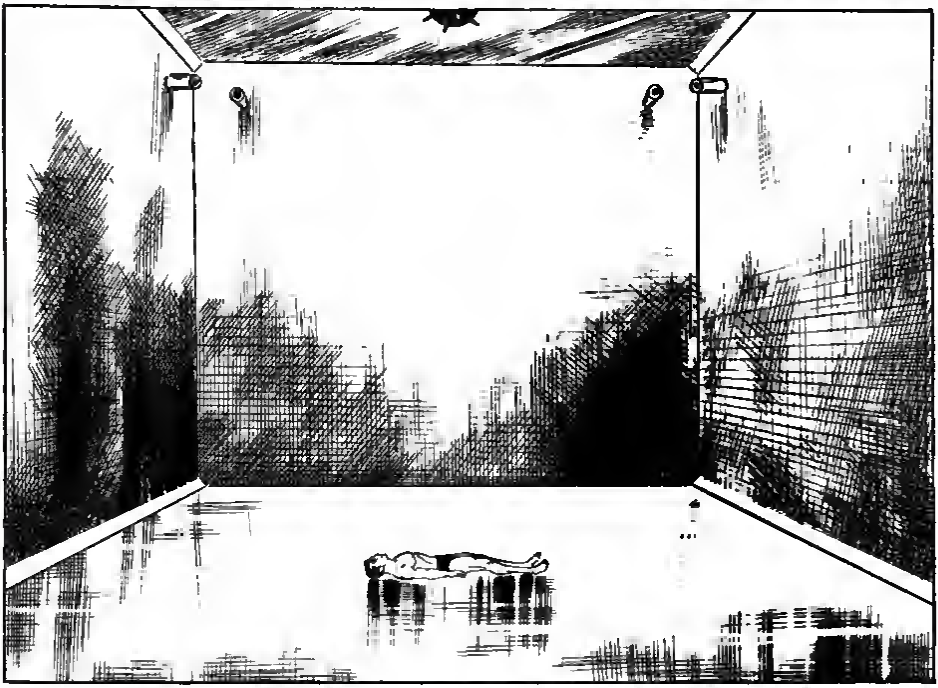
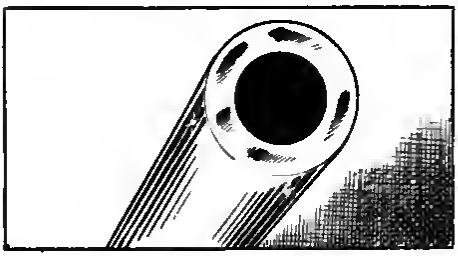
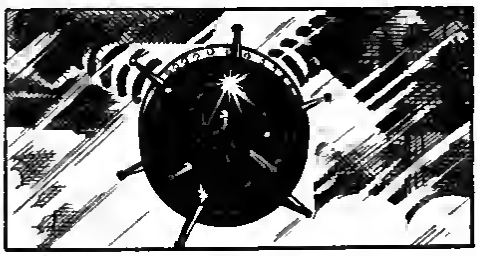
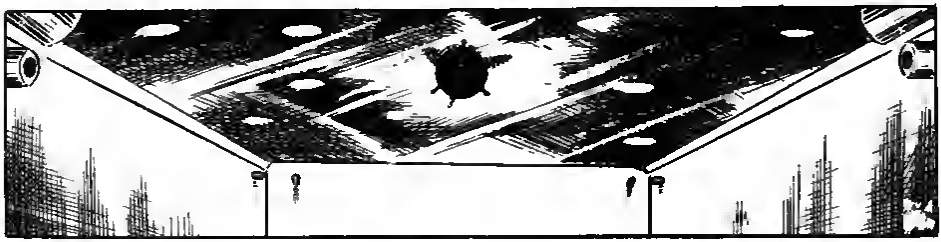
AIRTIGHT CULTURE ROOM.

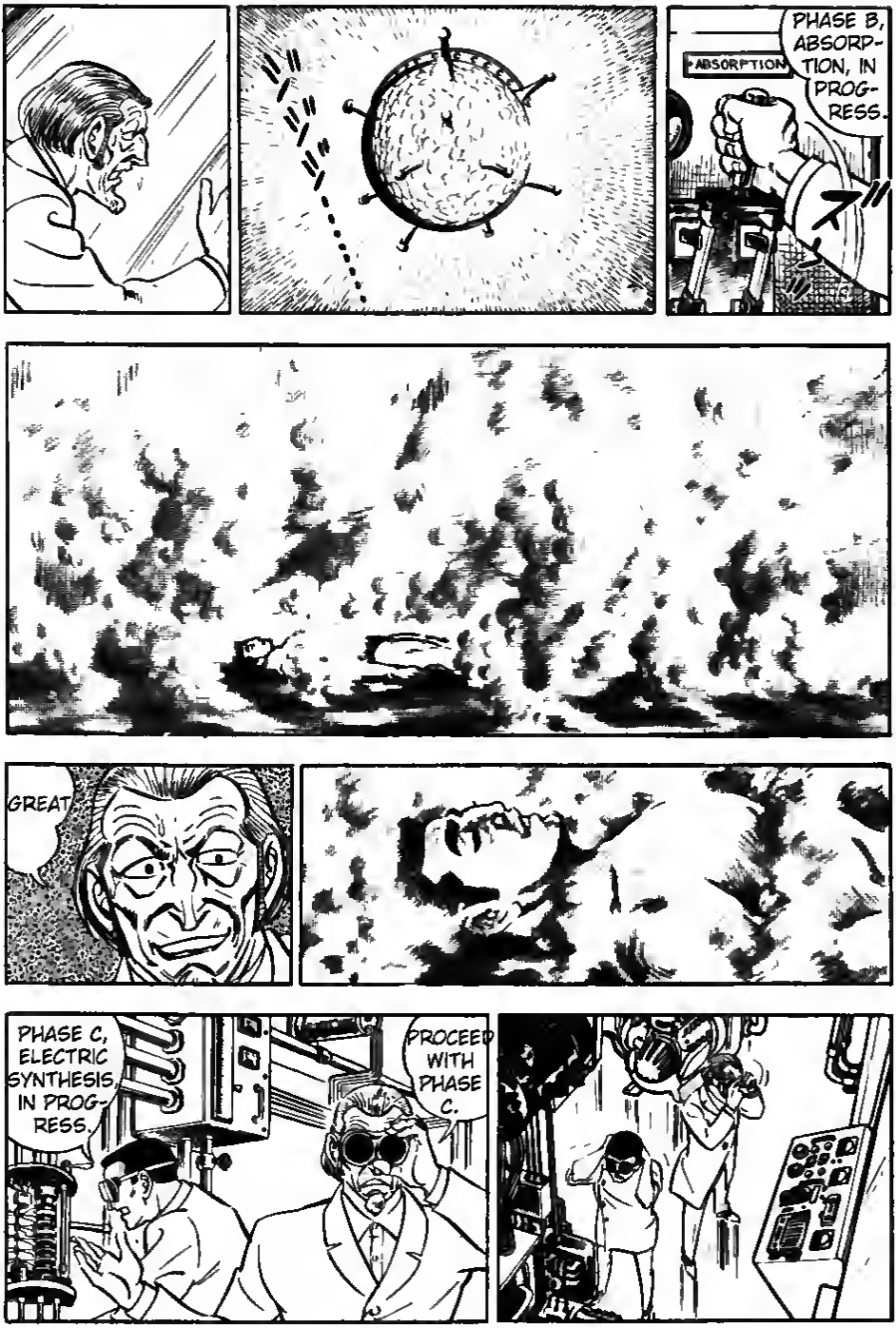


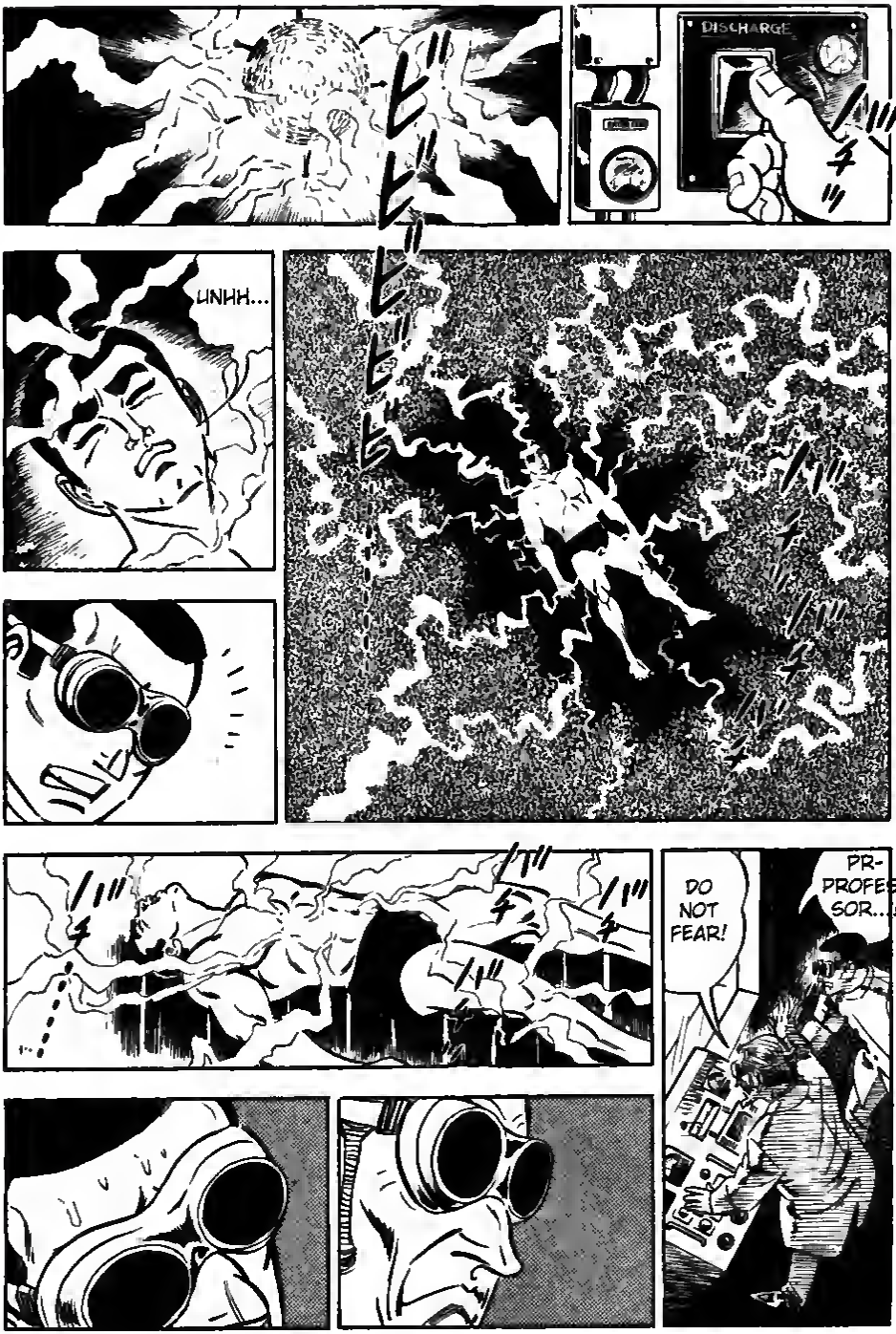


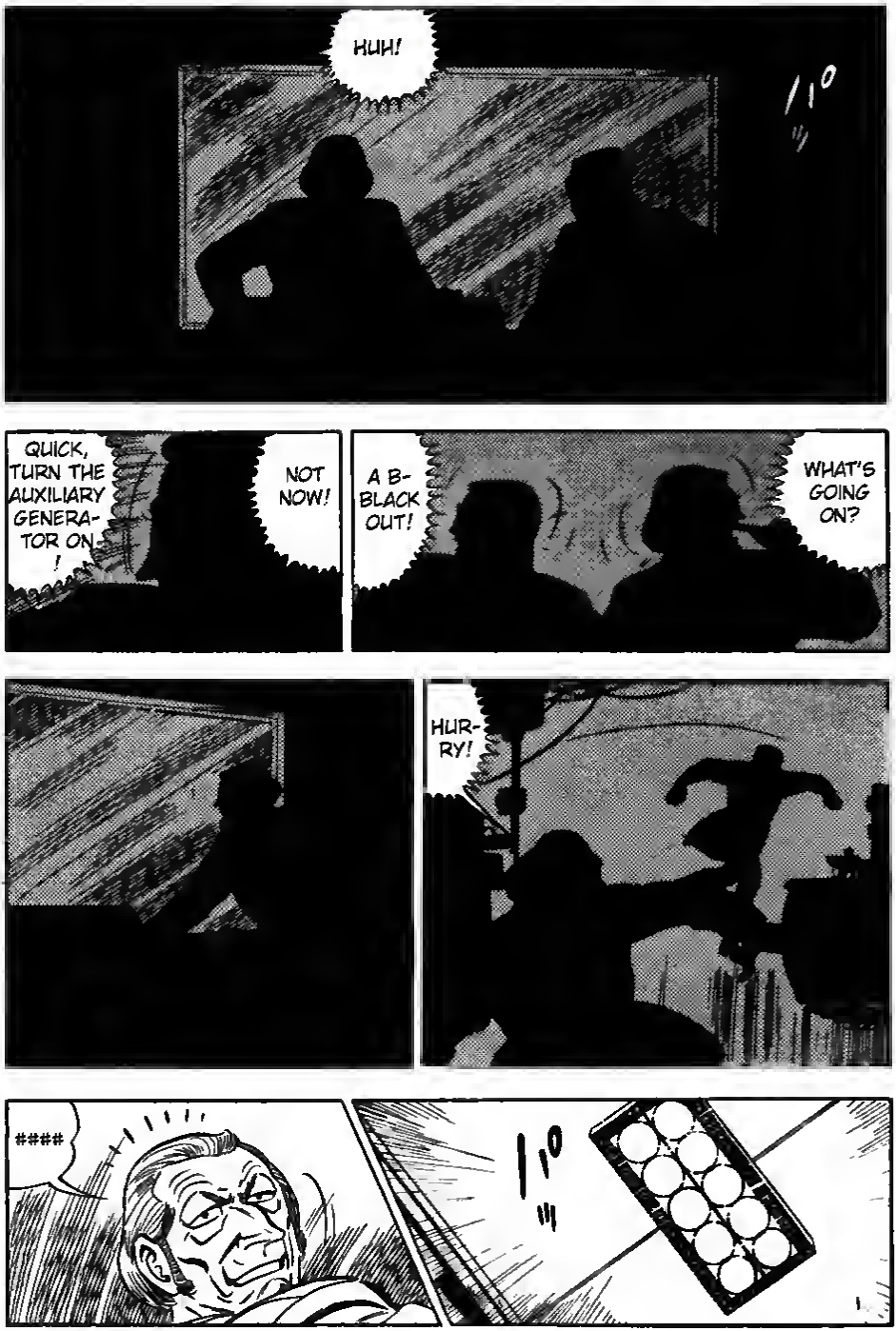




A. MACRO
PHASE A, MACRO-GROWTH, IN PROG-RESS.
PROCEED WITH PHASE A.
PROCEED WITH PHASE B.
STOP.


ABSORPTION
PHASE B, ABSORPTION, IN PROGRESS.
GREAT
PHASE C, ELECTRIC SYNTHESIS, IN PROGRESS.
PROCEED WITH PHASE C.


ビビビビビ
DISCHARGE
UNHH...
DO NOT FEAR!
PR-PROFES-SOR..!


HUH!
QUICK, TURN THE AUXILIARY GENERATOR ON!
NOT NOW!
A B-BLACK OUT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HURRY!
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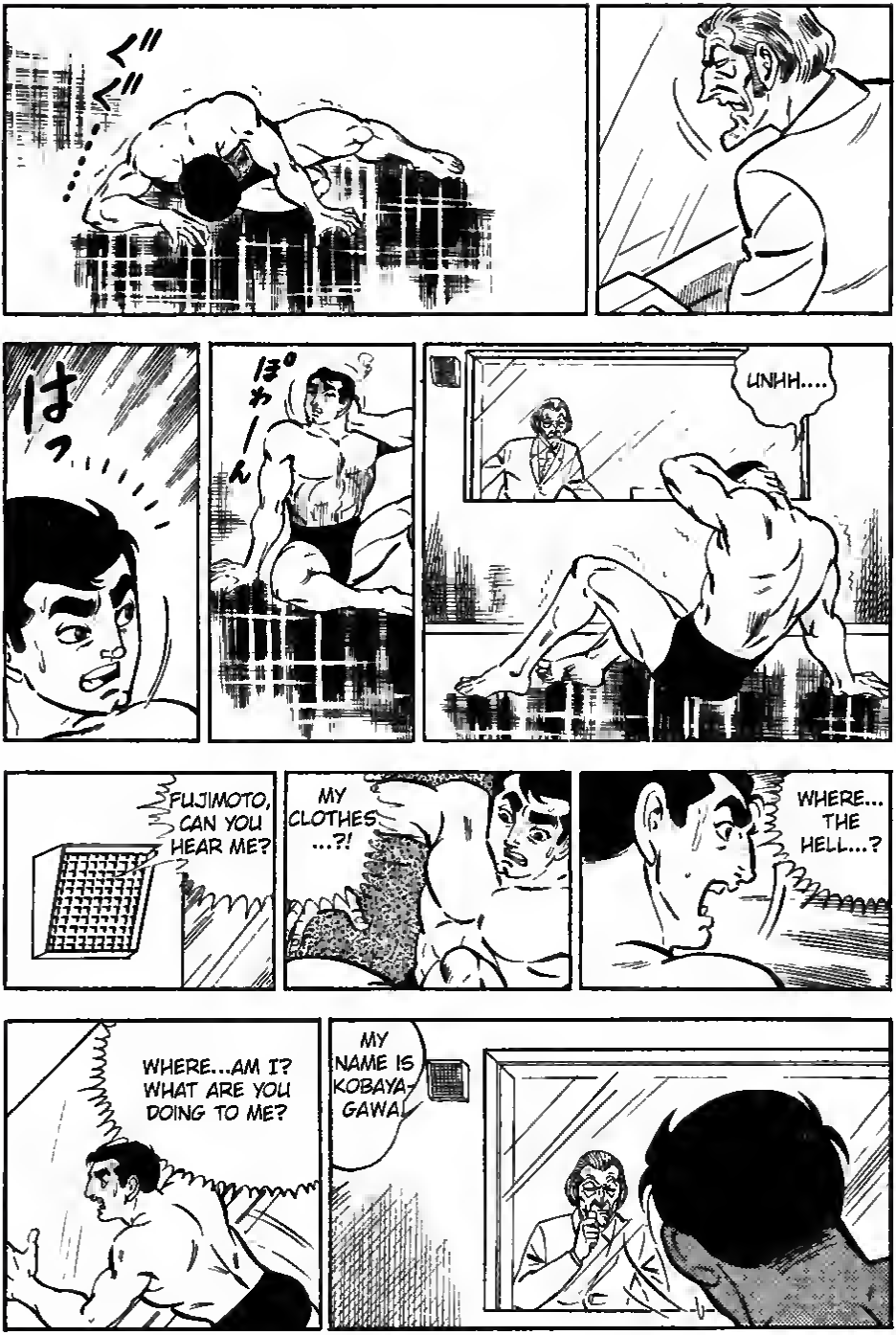
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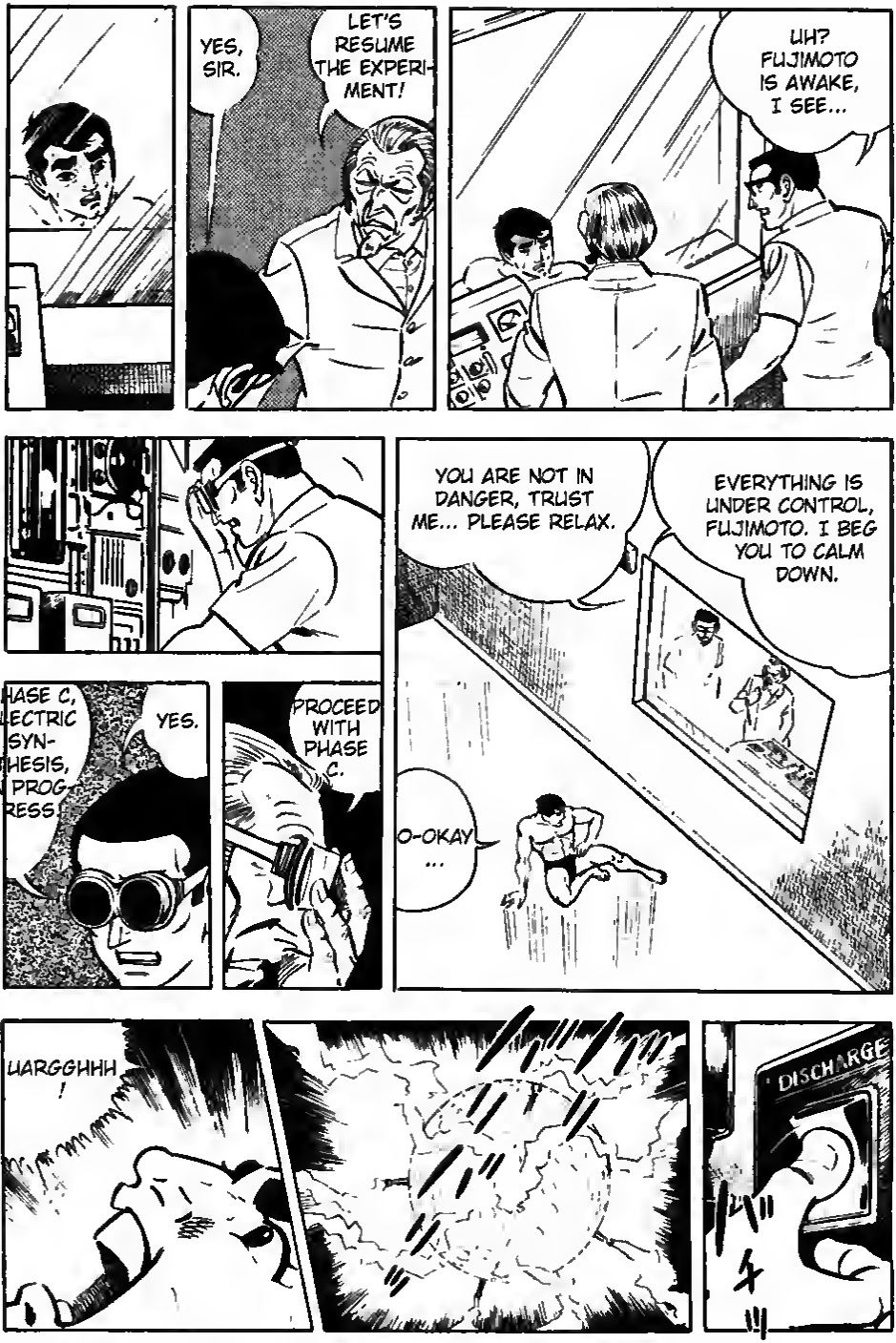
UNHH....
FUJIMOTO, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
MY CLOTHES ...?!
WHERE... THE HELL...?
WHERE...AM I? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
MY NAME IS KOBAYA-GAWA!

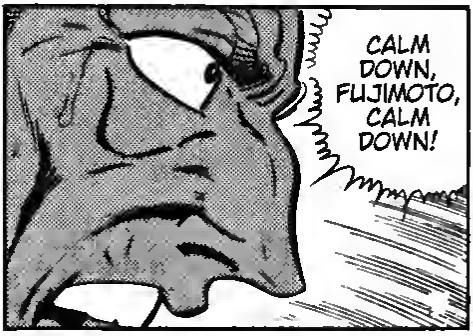
YES, AND EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY.
YOU MEAN... THE EXPERIMENT HAS ALREADY BEGUN?
####
I BELIEVE MY ASSISTANT, KOJO, HAS EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO YOU. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
BUT THEN... WHY... WHY AM I FEELING SO HOT?
...
UHM ...
YES, THAT'S GOOD. IT'S THE PROOF THAT THE EXPERIMENT IS WORKING.
OH YEAH? THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S AS IF... MY WHOLE BODY WERE ON FIRE!


YES, SIR.
LET'S RESUME THE EXPERIMENT!
UH? FUJIMOTO IS AWAKE, I SEE...
PHASE C, ELECTRIC SYNTHESIS, IN PROGRESS!
YES.
PROCEED WITH PHASE C.
YOU ARE NOT IN DANGER, TRUST ME... PLEASE RELAX.
EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL, FUJIMOTO. I BEG YOU TO CALM DOWN.
O-OKAY...
UARGGHHH!
DISCHARGE

IT'S OKAY, FUJIMOTO. THERE'S NO DANGER, PLEASE RELAX!
STOP.
A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER SOON. BE PATIENT!
PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA! I'M HOT! I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING!
...I'M HOT!

CONTROL-5
PHASE D, CONTROL-GO EMISSION, IN PROGRESS.
PROCEED WITH PHASE D.
JUST RELAX, FUJIMOTO!
PLEASE LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
I'M IN A GAS CHAMBER!
AHHHH!

...I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
I... DON'T WANT TO...
HE- HELP ME!


CALM DOWN, FUJIMOTO, CALM DOWN!

...

GHAA!

UHN...
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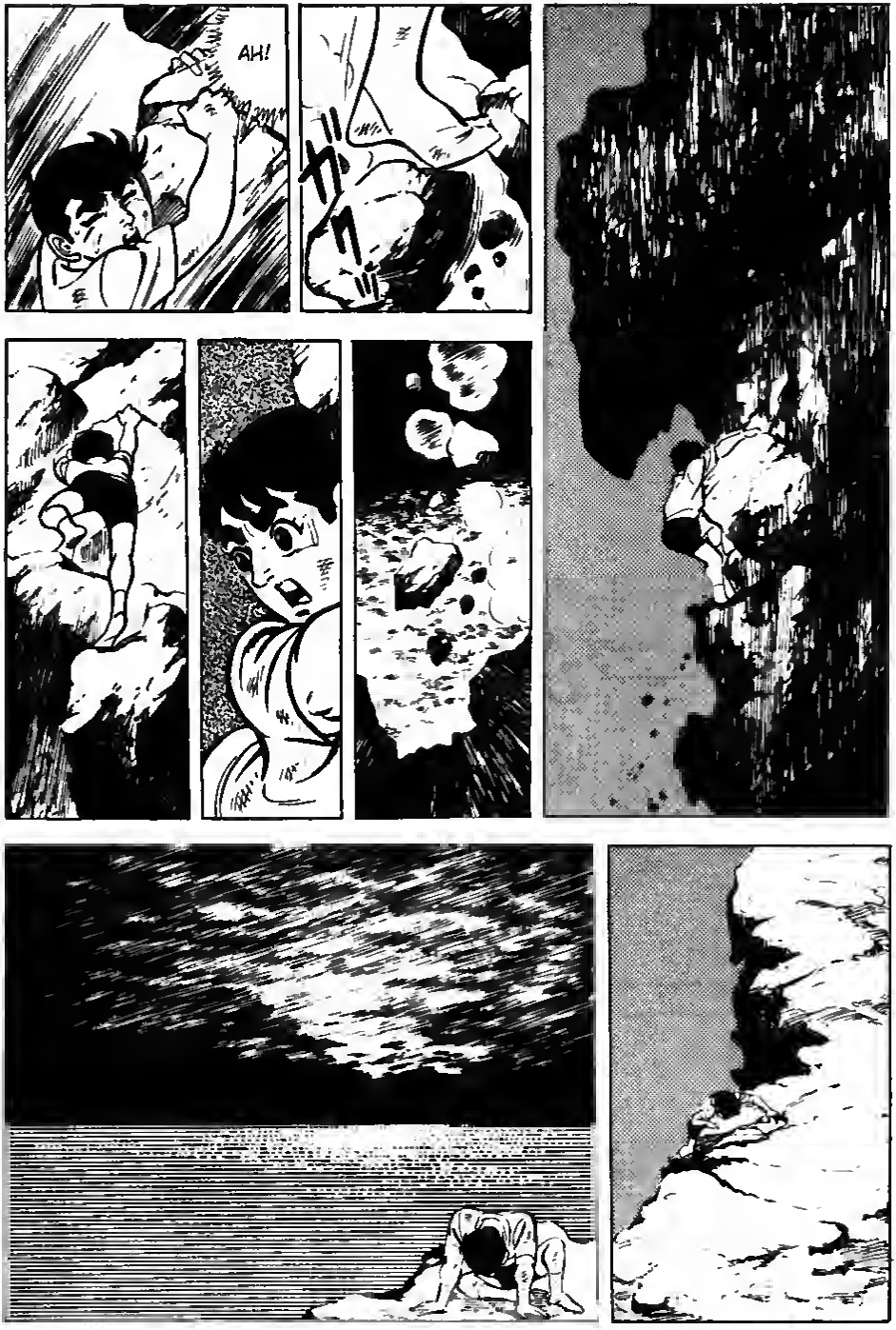
...WHAT AM I DOING IN THIS PLACE?
...WHO...? ...WHAT...
I CAN'T REMEMBER... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING !
I'M ACHING... ALL OVER!
I MUST... HAVE FALLEN.


AH!
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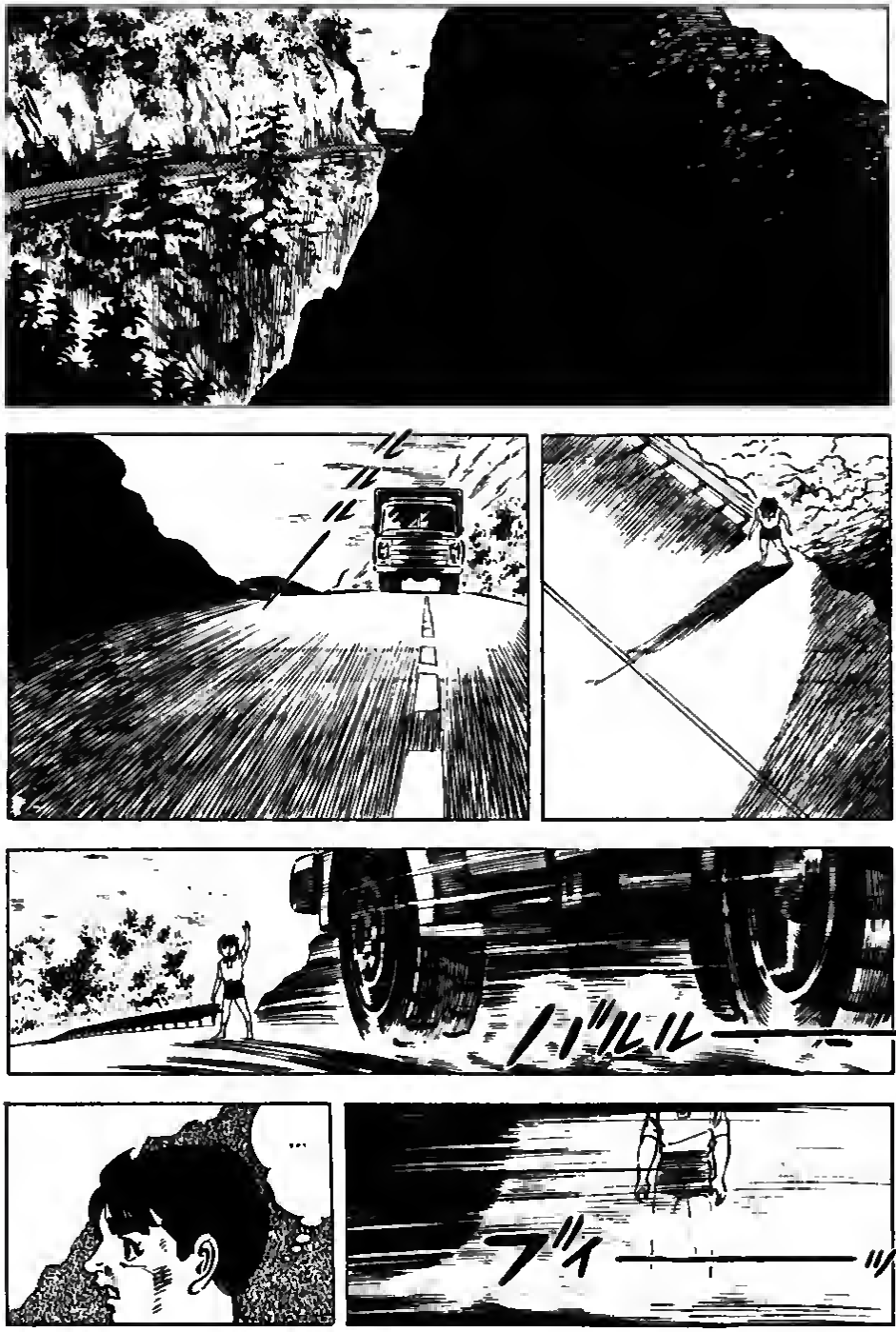
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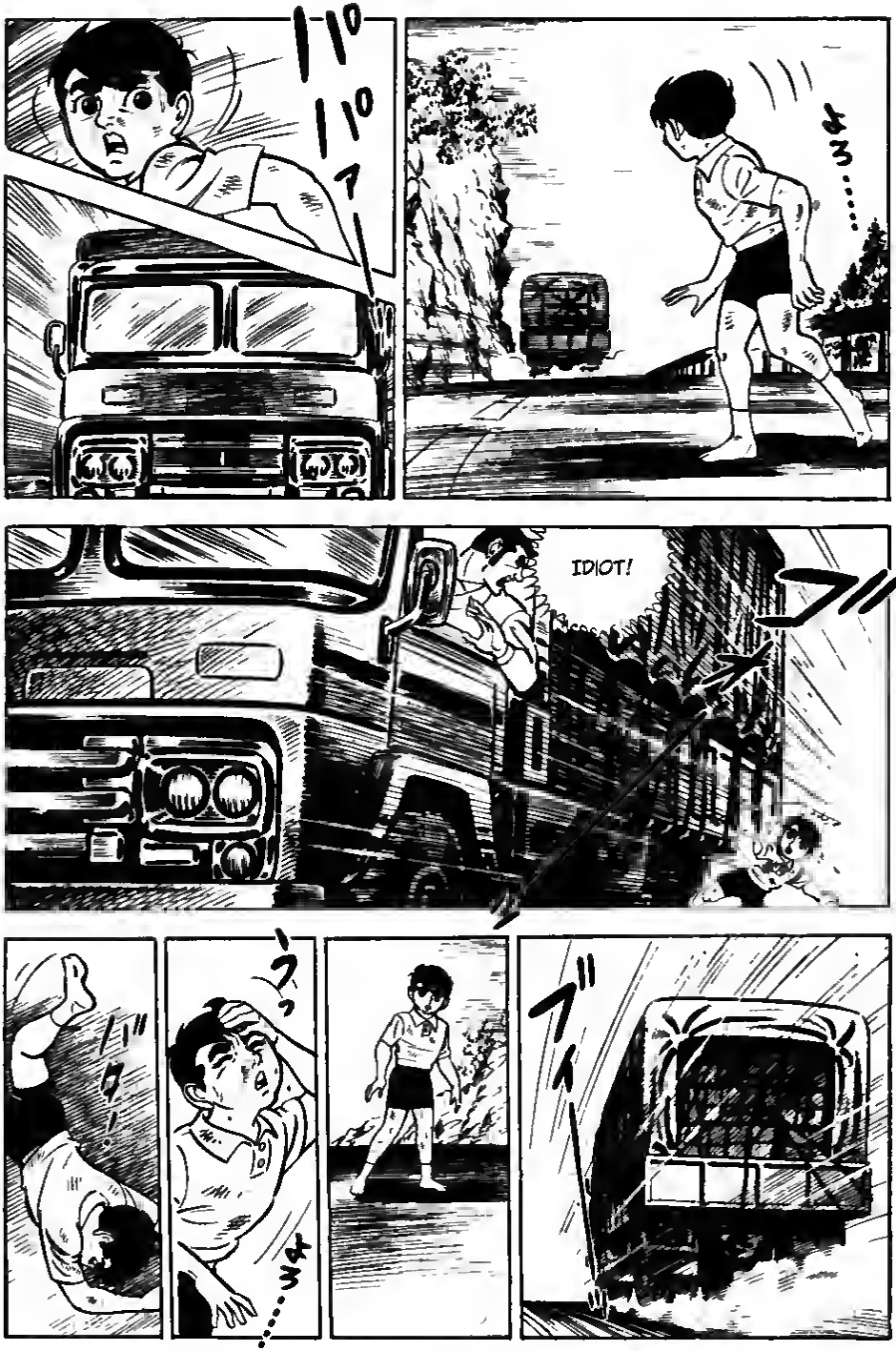
IDIOT!

AW, I HATE THE MORNING SHIFT!
YAWN-NNN!
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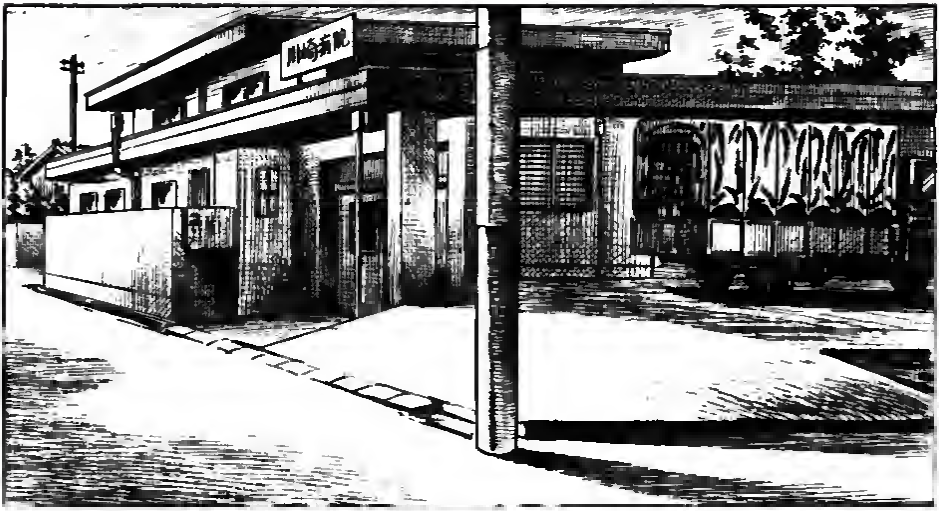
A BOY !
PHEW !
UHN...
HE'S HURT PRETTY BADLY.
DAMN, DAMN!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU OKAY?

GUESS HE MUST'VE RUN AWAY FROM HOME.
NO GOOD, NO GOOD ...
AWW ...
HANG IN THERE, BOYO!
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. GOT TO TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL NOW.



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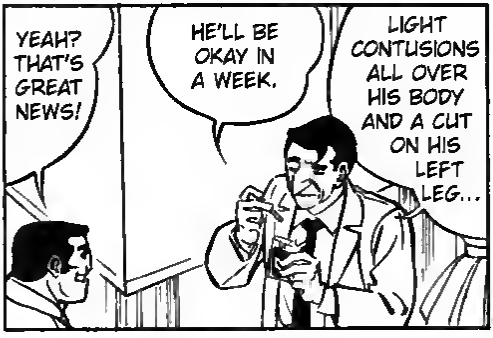
NOT TOO BAD, CONSID-ERING...
H-HOW'S HE, DOCTOR?

UH?

YOU, HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE SO LUCKY...


YEAH? THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
HE'LL BE OKAY IN A WEEK.
LIGHT CONTUSIONS ALL OVER HIS BODY AND A CUT ON HIS LEFT LEG...

HEY! JUST WAIT A MINUTE, DOCTOR!
WHAT?
THE COPS ARE VERY FUSSY ABOUT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, INJURIES OR NOT...
ANYWAY, I ALREADY CALLED THE TRAFFIC POLICE AND THEY SHOULD BE HERE ANYTIME. YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN IN THE-
YOU SHOULD BE GIVING ME A MEDAL!
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
I DIDN'T RUN HIM OVER. I JUST FOUND HIM LYING ON THE ROAD AND BROUGHT HIM HERE!
THAT'S UNFAIR!
ASK HIM HIS VERSION!
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE BOY? HE'LL TELL YOU!
HOLD ON A MINUTE, DOCTOR!
TELL HIM HOW YOU GOT HURT!
HEY, BOYO, TELL THE DOCTOR WHAT HAPPENED !
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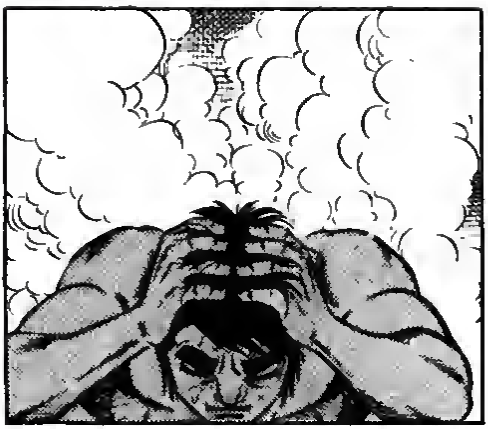
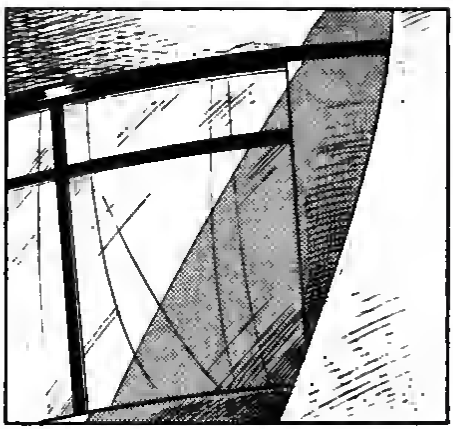
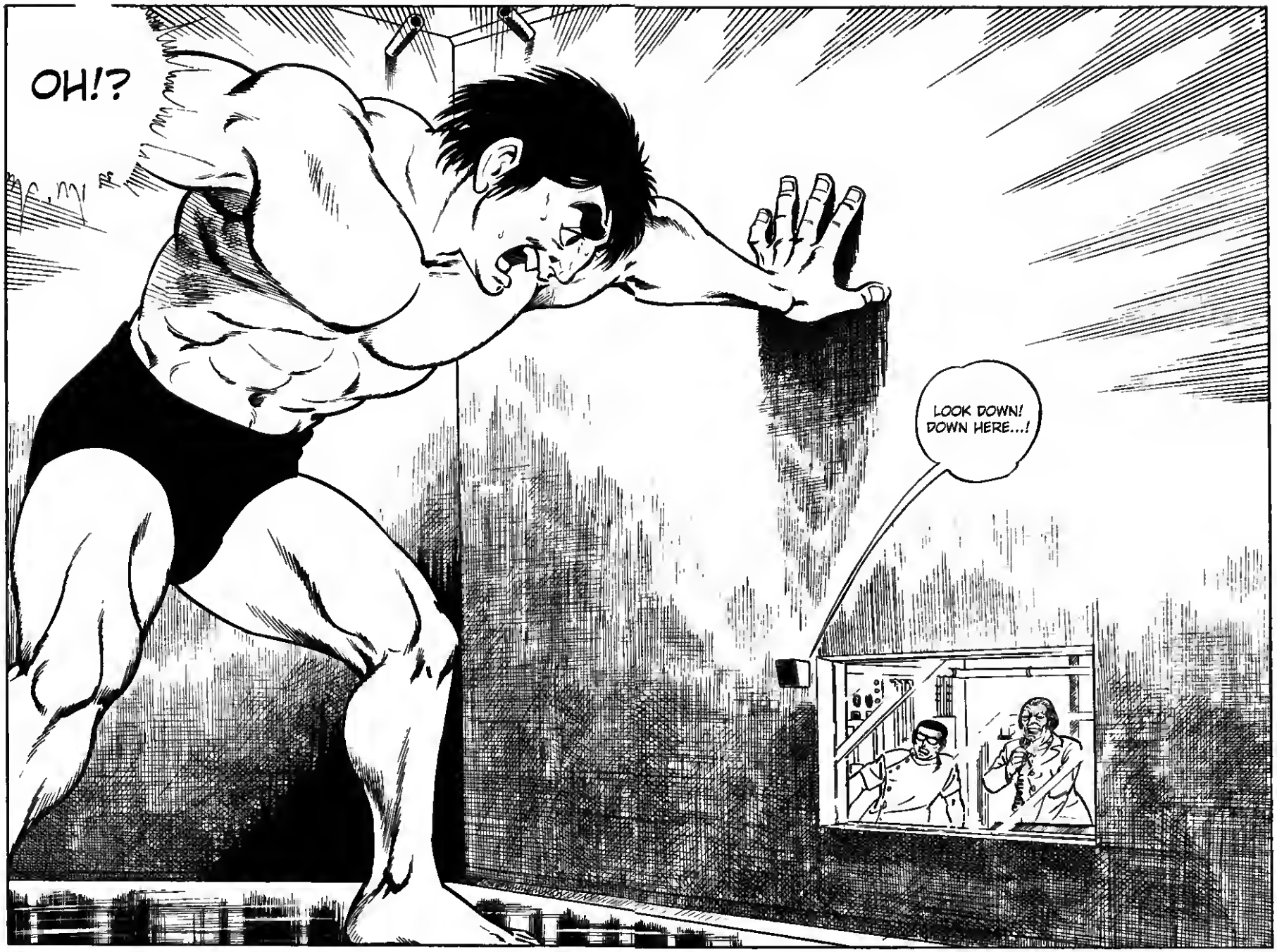
...
I FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS ON THE HIGHWAY AND TOOK YOU HERE.
IT'S A HOSPITAL. A HOSPITAL!
WHERE'S THIS PLACE?
BUT...
AND I CLIMBED BACK UP TO THE ROAD...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I FELL OFF A CLIFF!
I DON'T REMEMBER! I DON'T REMEMBER!
...WHO AM I? AND WHY WAS I AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT CLIFF?





I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFER-ENT...!
I'M ALIVE!
I... I'M FINE! I'M STILL ALIVE!
UH?
AWW!
FUJI-MOTO! FUJI-MOTO!
W-WHAT HAP-PENED?
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE ?
THE ROOM... SHRANK!


OH!?
LOOK DOWN! DOWN HERE...!

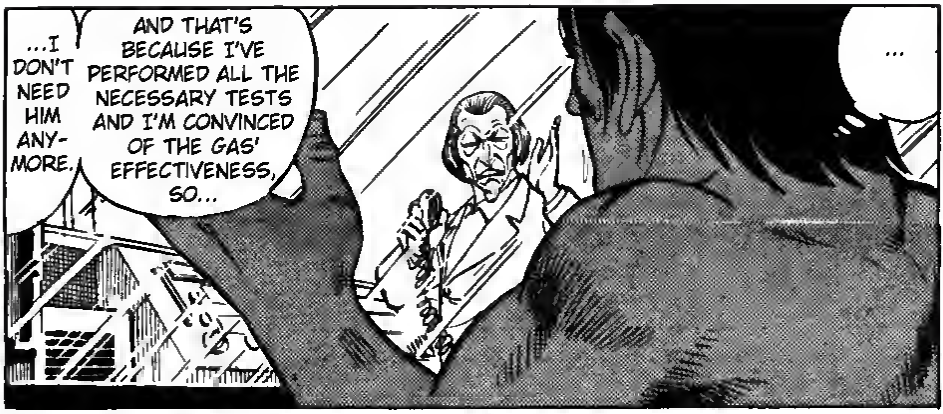
NO... NO WAY!
PROFES-SOR! KOJO!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
...OR IS IT... THAT I...
E-EVERYTHING GOT SMALLER!

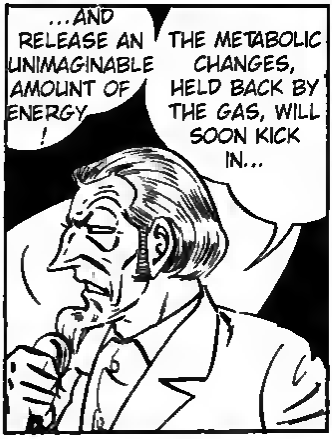
NO!
...I... GOT BIGGER?
NO!
...NOOHH!
CALM DOWN, FUJIMOTO! CALM DOWN!...

LISTEN! CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME! LISTEN, FUJIMOTO!
PLEASE, LET ME OUT!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
LET ME OUT!
I CANNOT LET YOU OUT NOW...
...AND YOU'D BE REDUCED TO ASHES!
IF YOUR BODY WERE EXPOSED TO THE OUTSIDE AIR, IT WOULD SELF-COMBUST...
IF YOU WALKED OUT OF THAT AIRTIGHT ROOM NOW, YOU'D DIE!

P-PRO-FES-SOR ...
DAMN!
LET ME OUT!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
Y-YES !
KOJO!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE. LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT WOULD HAPPEN!
HAVE A GOOD LOOK, FUJIMOTO !

...A RAT!
UGH!
チチチ
YES! WE ALL LEARNT IT IN SCHOOL. LIVING ORGANISMS RELY ON METABOLIC PROCESSES TO SURVIVE...
M-METABOLISM ...?
SEE, FUJIMOTO, I'VE INCREASED THE SIZE OF THIS MOUSE THE SAME WAY I INCREASED YOURS. NOW IT'S NOT THE TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS, SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THANKS TO A GAS CALLED CONTROL-GO, I CAN KEEP YOUR METABOLISM IN CHECK.
BUT I'VE ONLY ADMINISTERED IT TO THE MOUSE ONCE.
...AS LONG AS YOU INHALE IT 3 TIMES EVERY 12 HOURS!
THIS GAS KEEPS THEM, AND YOUR OUTSIZED GROWTH, UNDER CONTROL...


...I DON'T NEED HIM ANY-MORE.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE PERFORMED ALL THE NECESSARY TESTS AND I'M CONVINCED OF THE GAS' EFFECTIVENESS, SO...
...


...AND RELEASE AN UNIMAGINABLE AMOUNT OF ENERGY!
THE METABOLIC CHANGES, HELD BACK BY THE GAS, WILL SOON KICK IN...

THE EFFECT OF THE GAS IS ALMOST OVER...

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HERE WE GO, FUJIMOTO.
...BUT JUST TO MAKE YOU UNDER-STAND.
WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE IT'S NOT MEANT TO SCARE YOU...
IT'S STARTED! WATCH, FUJIMOTO!
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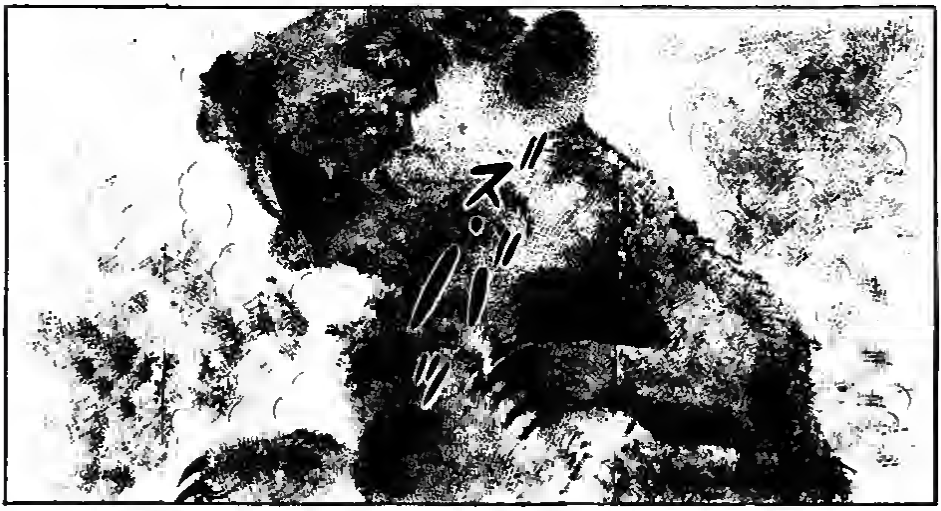
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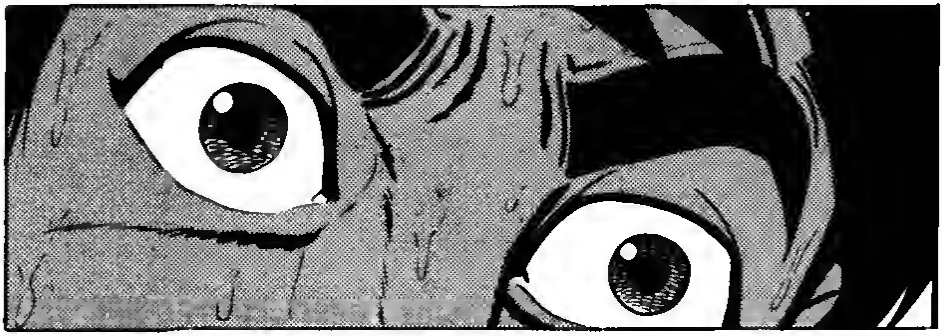
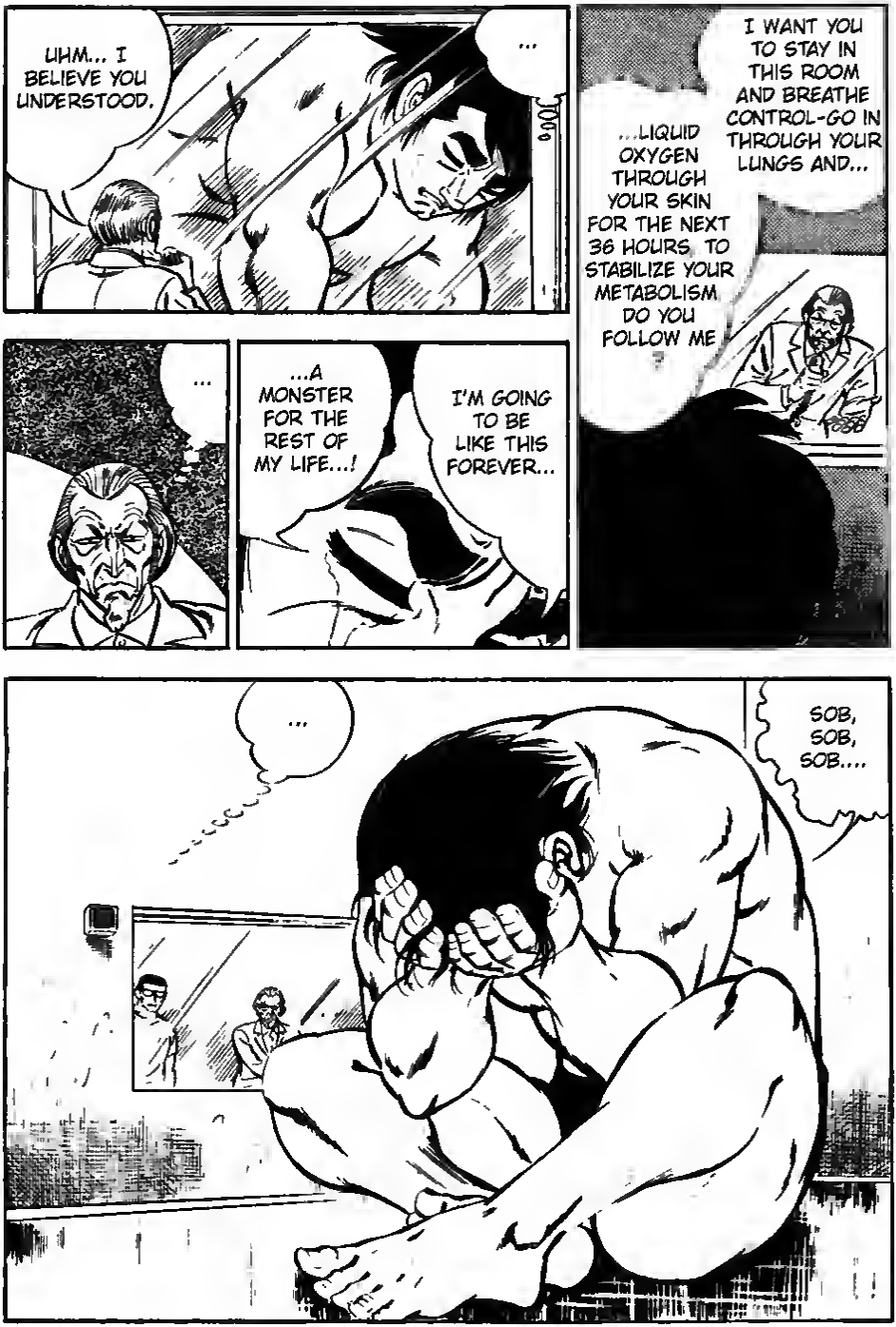


AH...
IF YOU WERE TO MAKE EVEN ONE STEP OUT OF THAT ROOM, YOU'D SHARE THE SAME FATE.
YOU SEE NOW, FUJIMOTO ?
...
...
...AS LONG AS YOU BREATHE IN CONTROL-GO IN THE REQUIRED AMOUNTS.
BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
OHHH...
ズズズ!
... TO LIVE 5 TIMES LONGER THAN NORMAL !
THE CONTROLLED METABOLIC CHANGES WILL ALLOW YOU...

WE'LL HAVE TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT LATER. AND NOW... IT'S A BIT TIGHT IN THERE, I KNOW, BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY PUT FOR ANOTHER 36 HOURS.
...A GOD?
AND EVERYONE WILL LOOK UP TO YOU AS A... GOD!
!?
?
...I... CANNOT... BREATHE...
ズズズ
WHAT'S WRONG, FUJIMOTO!

OXYGEN LEVELS ARE VERY LOW.
I GOT IT, PROFES-SOR!
AH!
FUJI-MOTO!
YES.
DAMN, HOW CARELESS OF ME! RESUME PHASE A.
WHY DO I NEED-
L-LIQUID OXYGEN, YOU SAID?
IT'S A MIX OF MACRO-GROWTH LIQUID AND LIQUID OXYGEN. IT WON'T HURT YOU.
...WHAT'S THIS?
W-WHAT ...

YOU HEAR ME, FUJIMOTO? WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE, WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER. WE'RE THE FUTURE SAVIOURS OF HUMANITY.
BUT I WANT TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING! I WANT FUJIMOTO TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!
THERE'S NO NEED TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL, PROFESSOR.
LET ME EXPLAIN IT IN SIMPLE TERMS ...
Y-YES...
YOU SHOULD BE BREATHING EASIER, RIGHT?
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?
...
TO PREVENT YOU FROM TAKING IN TOO MUCH CONTROL-S INTO THOSE POWERFUL LUNGS OF YOURS!
I TRY TO KEEP THE OXYGEN LEVEL IN THE ROOM AS LOW AS POSSIBLE, TO FORCE YOU TO BREATHE THROUGH YOUR SKIN!
BECAUSE YOU'VE ABSORBED LARGE AMOUNTS OF OXYGEN THROUGH YOUR SKIN.
...
WORMS BREATHE THROUGH THEIR SKIN, FROGS BREATHE THROUGH SKIN, LUNGS, ORAL CAVITY, THROAT AND OESOPHAGUS!
HUMANS ALREADY BREATHE SMALL QUANTITIES OF AIR THAT WAY, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF INCREASING THEM.
... THROUGH MY SKIN?


UHM... I BELIEVE YOU UNDERSTOOD.
...
I WANT YOU TO STAY IN THIS ROOM AND BREATHE CONTROL-GO IN THROUGH YOUR LUNGS AND...
...LIQUID OXYGEN THROUGH YOUR SKIN FOR THE NEXT 36 HOURS TO STABILIZE YOUR METABOLISM DO YOU FOLLOW ME?
...
...A MONSTER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...!
I'M GOING TO BE LIKE THIS FOREVER...
...
SOB, SOB, SOB....

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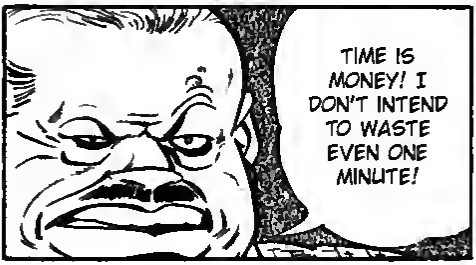
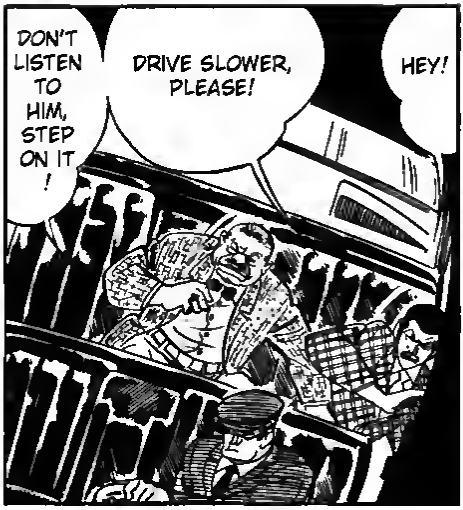
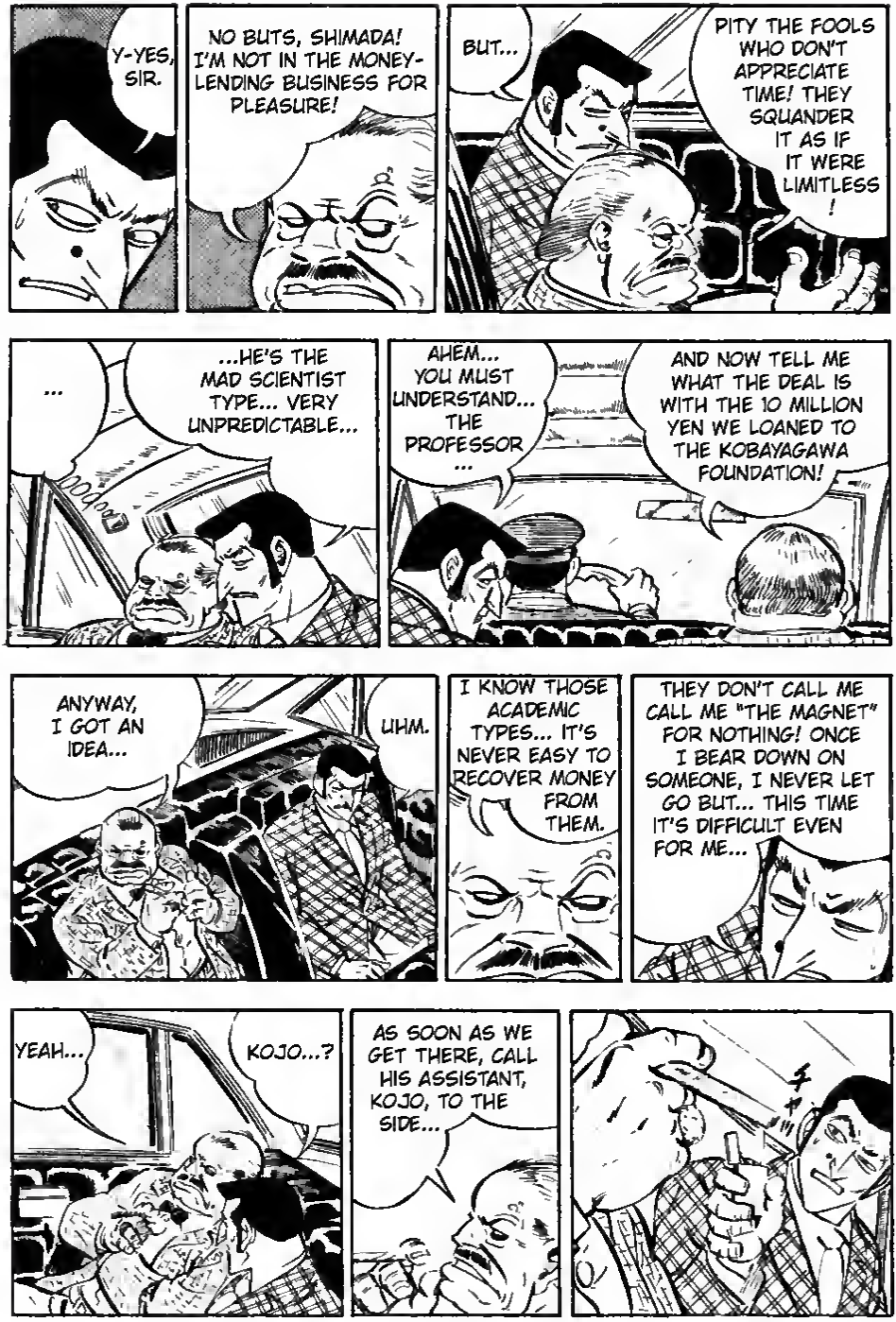
SHUT UP!
WE'RE GOING TO DIE!
BUT... BOSS!


TIME IS MONEY! I DON'T INTEND TO WASTE EVEN ONE MINUTE!

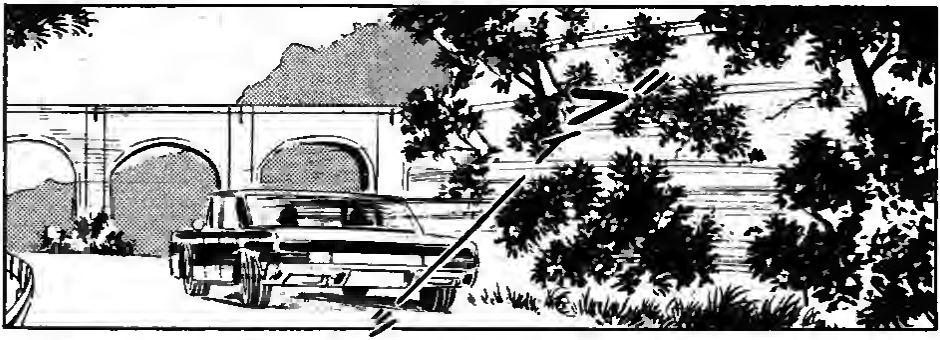

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, STEP ON IT!
DRIVE SLOWER, PLEASE!
HEY!

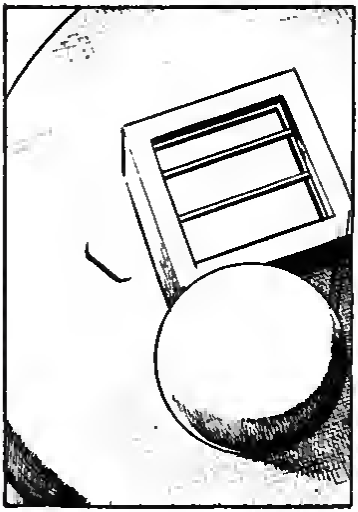

Y-YES, SIR.
NO BUTS, SHIMADA! I'M NOT IN THE MONEY-LENDING BUSINESS FOR PLEASURE!
BUT...
PITY THE FOOLS WHO DON'T APPRECIATE TIME! THEY SQUANDER IT AS IF IT WERE LIMITLESS!
...
...HE'S THE MAD SCIENTIST TYPE... VERY UNPREDICTABLE...
AHEM... YOU MUST UNDERSTAND... THE PROFESSOR ...
AND NOW TELL ME WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH THE 10 MILLION YEN WE LOANED TO THE KOBAYAGAWA FOUNDATION!
ANYWAY, I GOT AN IDEA...
UHM.
I KNOW THOSE ACADEMIC TYPES... IT'S NEVER EASY TO RECOVER MONEY FROM THEM.
THEY DON'T CALL ME CALL ME "THE MAGNET" FOR NOTHING! ONCE I BEAR DOWN ON SOMEONE, I NEVER LET GO BUT... THIS TIME IT'S DIFFICULT EVEN FOR ME...
YEAH...
KOJO...?
AS SOON AS WE GET THERE, CALL HIS ASSISTANT, KOJO, TO THE SIDE...

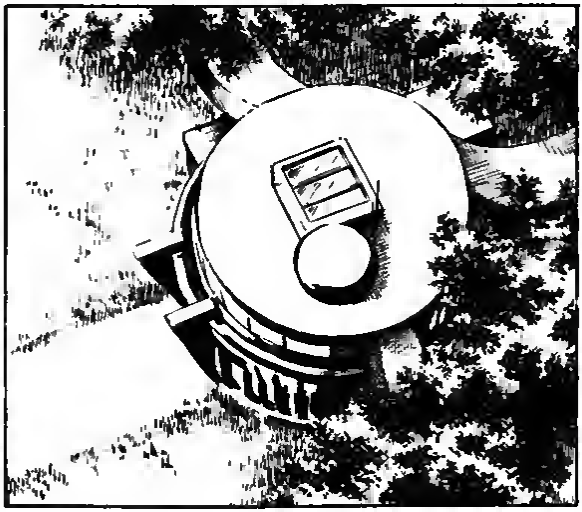
IH, IH, IH.
.... MEANING ...?!

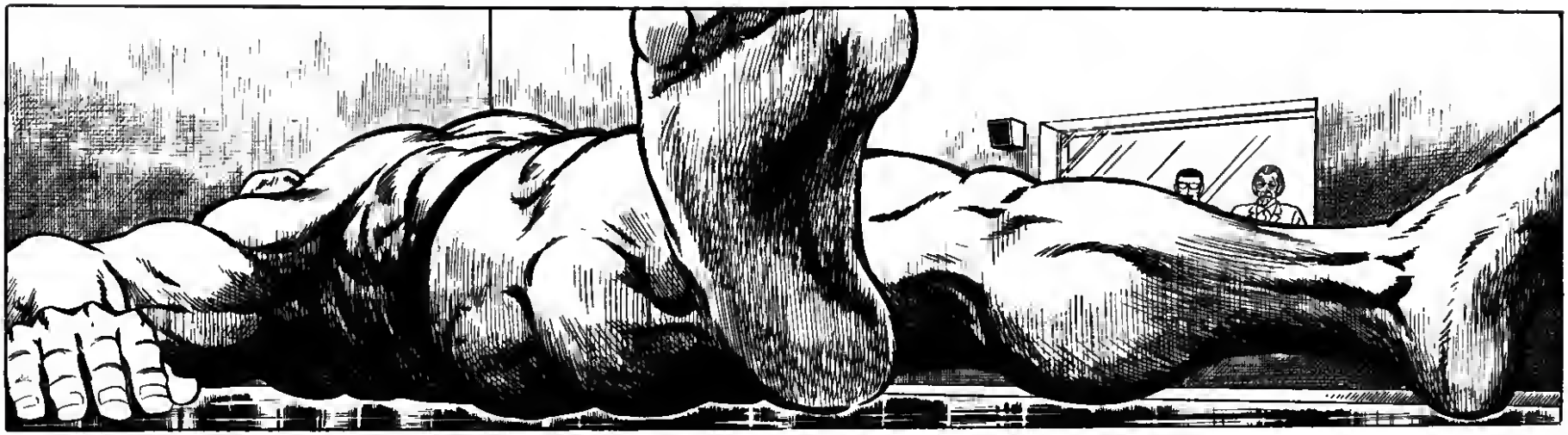
...READING PEOPLE. THAT KOJO IS A SLY ONE, I'M TELLING YOU.
I'M A GOOD AT...

UH? ...BUT...
NEVER MIND... ANYWAY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE KOBAYAGAWA MATTER PERSONALLY.









THANK YOU, KOJO. ACTUALLY...

LET ME CONGRATULATE YOU, PROFESSOR.

EVERY-THING WENT WELL!

SUCCESS ALL ALONG THE LINE!

HE SEEMS TO BE ASLEEP...

...CONTROL-GO... IT LOOKS AS IF...

I NEED TO DOUBLE CHECK THE CLINICAL DATA FIRST, BUT...

UH?

...I THINK THE RESULTS SURPASSED EVEN MY ROSIEST EXPEC-TATIONS!

...IT COULD CURE THE MAJORITY OF TODAY'S INCURABLE DISEASES!

...AS IF ...?

I'M INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT TOO! I'M ONE OF HUMANITY'S SAVIOURS! YOU SAID SO YOURSELF, PROFESSOR!

P-PLEASE, PROFESSOR, TELL ME ABOUT CONTROL GO'S MOLECULAR STRUCTURE! GIVE ME ITS FORMULA!

...

IN OTHER WORDS, MY GAS COULD BE MAN'S TICKET TO IMMORTALITY!

...HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NEWS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS GAS LEAKED OUT TO THE WORLD?

I DON'T QUESTION YOUR LOYALTY, NOR DO I INTEND TO KEEP THE FORMULA A SECRET TO PROFIT FROM IT BUT...

KOJO, DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP, PLEASE.

I BEG YOU, PROFESSOR, TELL ME!

I'M YOUR ASSOCIATE! YOU SHOULDN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME!

NO, I SAID I'M NOT QUESTIONING YOUR LOYALTY.
ARE YOU SAYING I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP A SECRET?
MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT!
PEOPLE WOULD KILL TO GET THEIR HANDS ON IT! ALL HELL WOULD BREAK LOOSE...
...AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT THE GAS' FORMULA TO GET OUT OF MY HEAD.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T HAVE MUCH TO LIVE...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET CAUGHT IN SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU.
I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE...
BUT... BUT... PRO-FESSOR!
THAT'S WHY, UNTIL WE'RE SURE OUR PROJECT IS SUCCESFUL, I WANT TO KEEP THE GAS A SECRET.
SCIENCE MAY SAVE THE WORLD... OR IT MAY DESTROY IT!
TRY TO UNDER-STAND, KOJO.
...

YES...
...I NEED TO GET SOME REST.
I'M VERY TIRED NOW...
R
R
R
...
HUH?
HELLO? KOBAYAGAWA LABORATORY. HOW MAY I-

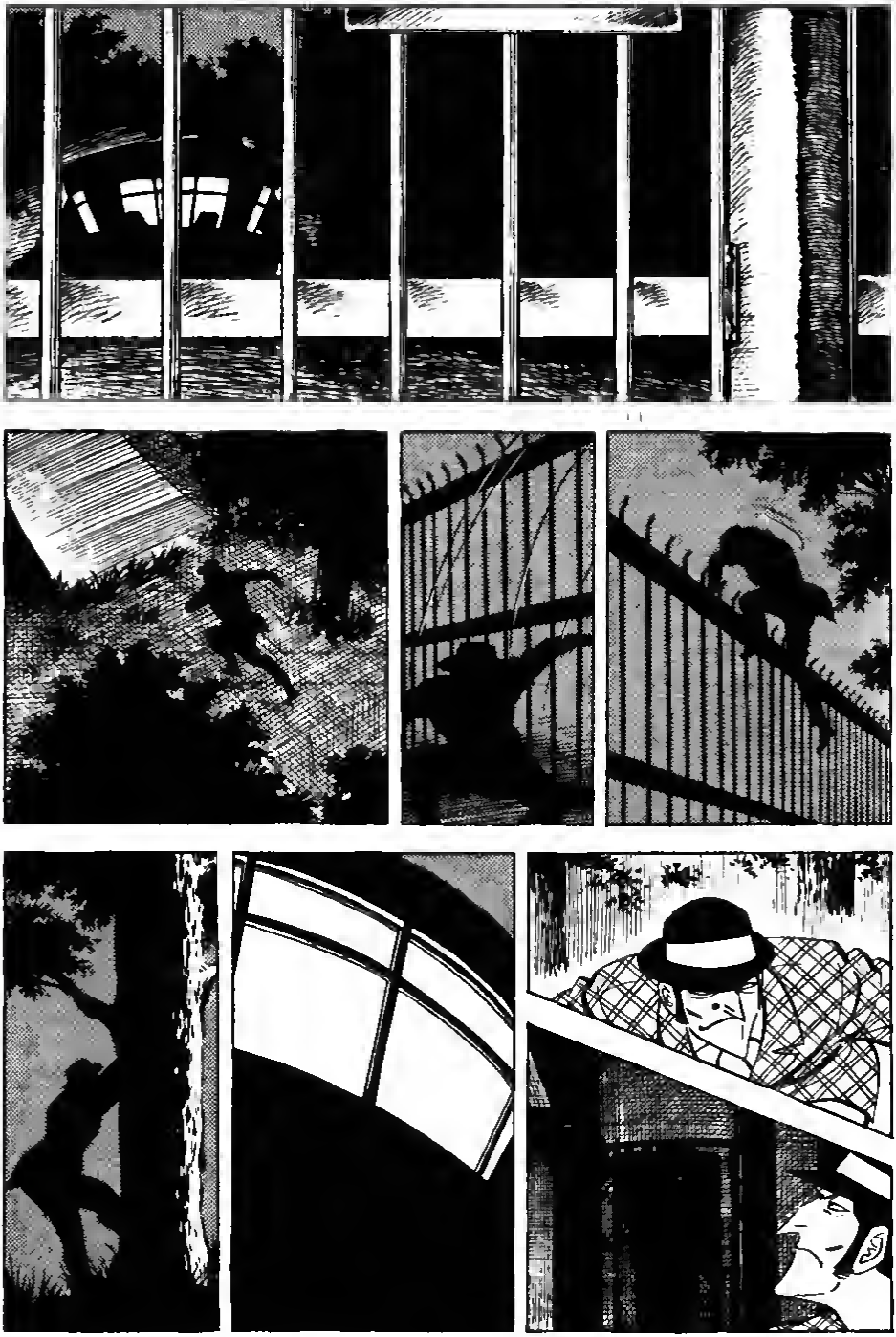
テラス
KARUIZAWA, THE OLD TOWN ...
YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED AHEAD OF TIME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.
I'M EXTREMELY BUSY, IDAKA.

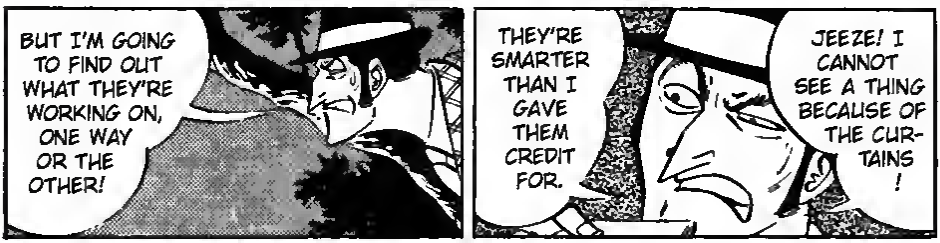
EVERY TIME THE REPAYMENT DATE DRAWS NEAR, HOWEVER, YOU JUST HAND OUT ANOTHER PROMISSORY NOTE...
YOU TALK AS IF WE HAD EVER MISSED A PAYMENT ON THE INTEREST.
THE BOSS HERE HAS LENT YOU PEOPLE 10 MILLION YEN...
EASY, KOJO, REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO.
...
SORRY, KOJO, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM.
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL TO THE BOSS-
HOW MANY OTHER MONEYLENDERS WOULD LET THAT SLIDE?
DROP IT, SHIMADA. YOU'RE ANNOY-ING ME.
I NEED TO PUT TO PROFIT THE MONEY YOU STILL OWE ME.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
...
UH?
WAIT, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO REPAY THE DEBT NOW...
BUT... BUT...
AND THAT'S WHY I'VE COME HERE TODAY, TO SETTLE THIS MATTER.

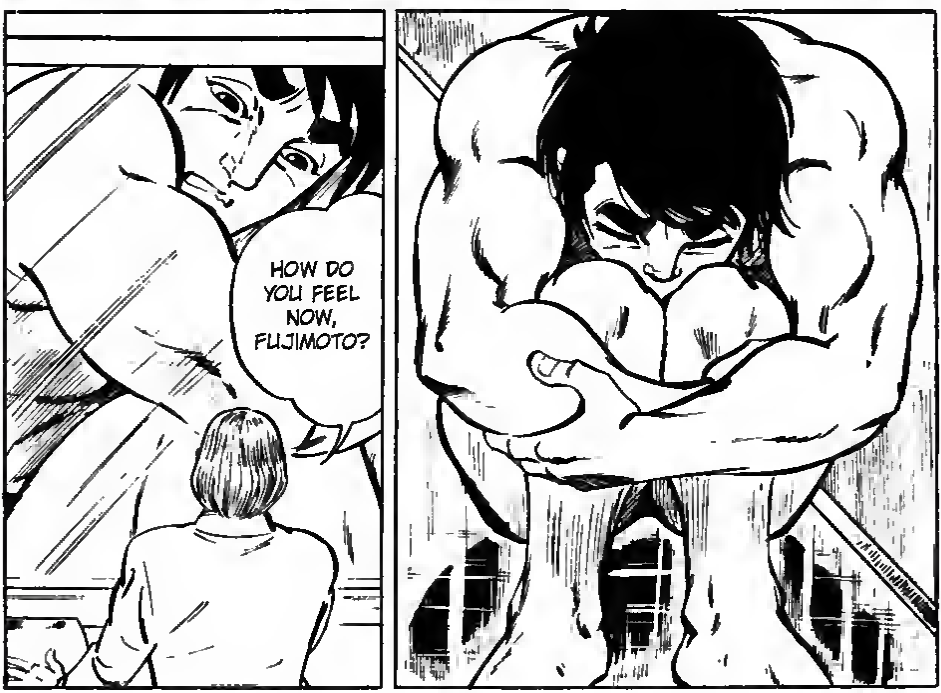
IF YOU TOLD ME, I'D BE SERIOUSLY TEMPTED TO CANCEL MOST OF THE DEBT. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
...
I'M IN A GENEROUS MOOD TODAY, ALL I'M ASKING IS... THAT YOU REVEAL TO ME THE REAL OBJECT OF PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA'S RESEARCH.
HOW DARE YOU TALK TO THE BOSS LIKE THAT?
IF WE TOLD YOU THE OBJECT OF OUR RESEARCH, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO BORROW MONEY FROM YOU.
YOU OWE ME AT LEAST THAT MUCH!
...
THE GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, THEY WOULD ALL BE TOO GLAD TO LEND US MONEY IF WE TOLD THEM WHAT IT'S FOR.
WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN.
EASY, SHIMADA, NO NEED TO MAKE A FUSS.
I SEE, YOU'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING YOU CANNOT TALK ABOUT...
THAT'S WHY WE'RE FORCED TO BORROW AT YOU EXORBITANT RATES.
OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE CANNOT REVEAL WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON.

NOT AT ALL, IT'S VERY ORDINARY... MEDICAL STUFF
THAT MEANS IT MUST BE SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL AND... PROFITABLE.
WELL, YOU SEE...
AM I WRONG, KOJO?
BUT YOU DO, AND THIS IS VERY SUSPICIOUS.
...THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY NEED TO KEEP IT SECRET, RIGHT ?
IF IT WERE ORDINARY...
NOT A BAD PROPOSAL, KOJO.
AND I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO OBLIGE... 5 MILLION, 10 MILLION... YOU NAME IT.
AFTER ALL, AS A SCIENTIST, YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF IN NEED OF FUNDING ONE DAY.
LISTEN, KOJO, MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME OUT OF YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST.
HUH?
I'LL PASS ON THAT OFFER.
IF IT WERE SOMETHING PROFITABLE, I COULD EVEN EXPLOIT IT INDUSTRIALLY . AND I'D BE SURE TO REWARD YOU EFFORTS. HELL, I MAY EVEN ASK YOU TO JOIN ME. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, KOJO?

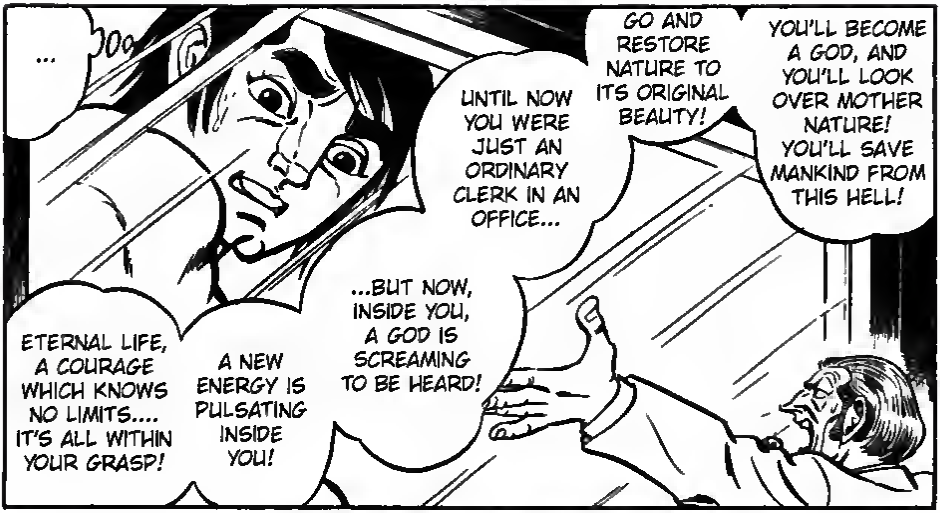
IS THAT RIGHT ?
YES. WE'RE NOT INTO THIS TO MAKE PROFITS.
... MY OFFER ?
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU REFUSE ...
BAH! YOU OBSTINATE IDIOT!
AND I'M SURE YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET IT!
IF YOU CAN'T PAY ME BACK, THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOUR LABORATORY... AND YOUR RESEARCH!
10 MILLIONS BY THE END OF THE MONTH !
JUST IMAGINE, VERY SOON I WILL HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THE EARTH! AND GOD WILL BE A PUPPET IN MY HAND!
EH, EH. I WONDER IF TWO-BIT SCOUNDRELS LIKE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF MY AMBITION.

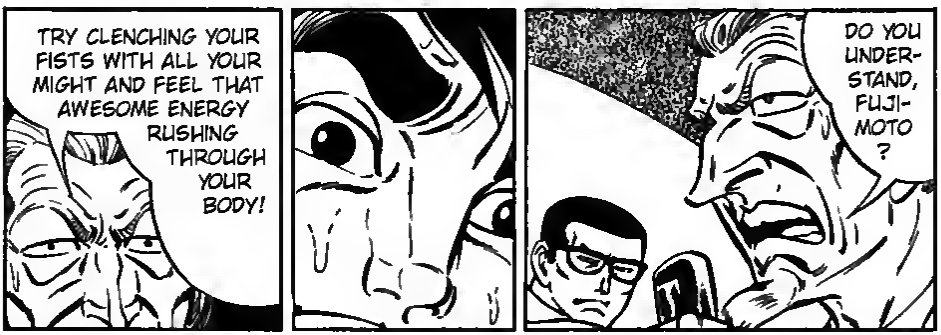



BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE WORKING ON, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
THEY'RE SMARTER THAN I GAVE THEM CREDIT FOR.
JEEZE! I CANNOT SEE A THING BECAUSE OF THE CURTAINS!

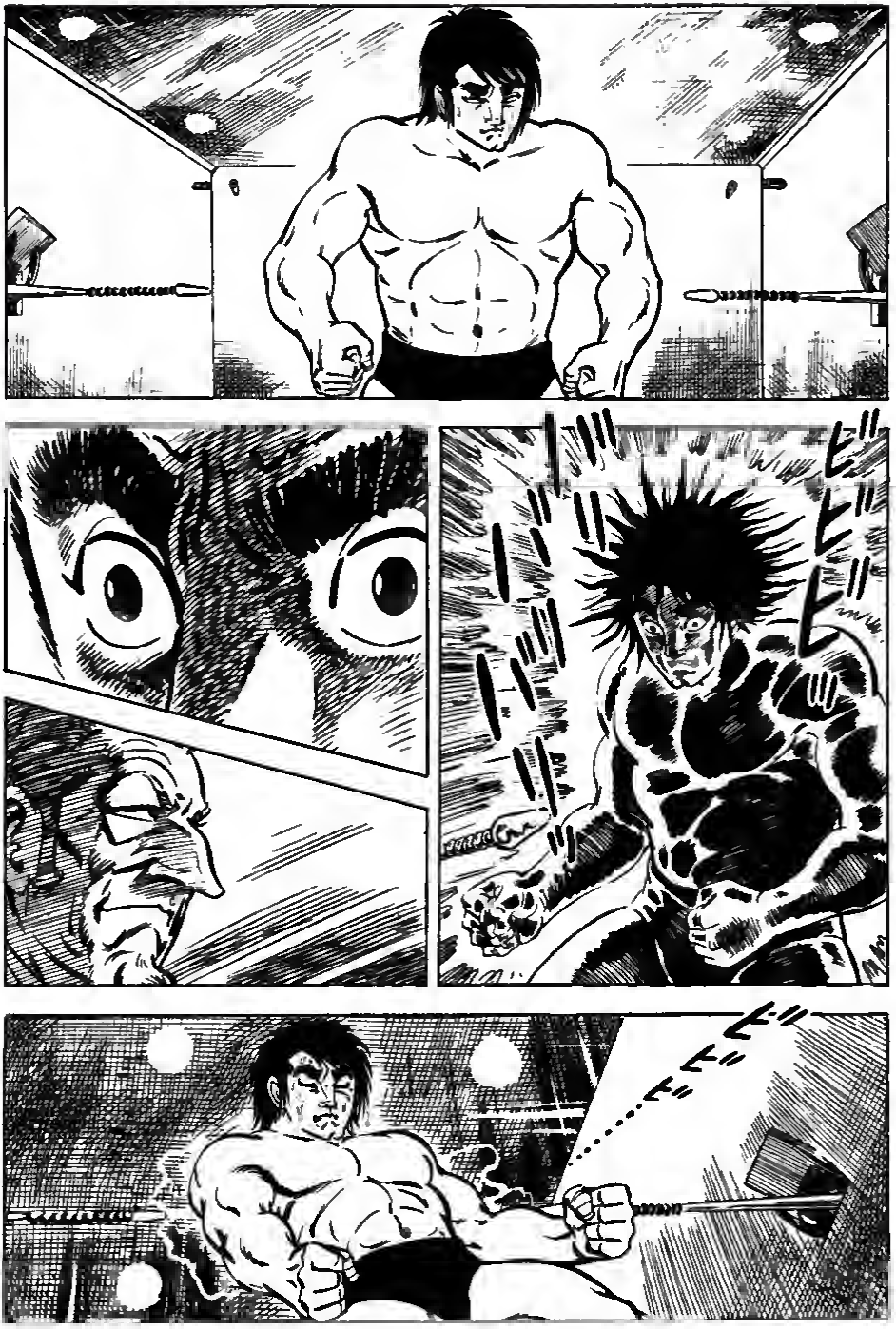

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW, FUJIMOTO?

BY THE WAY, I'VE DECIDED TO TELL YOU THE NEXT STAGE OF OUR PLAN, SINCE YOU'LL HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN IT.
UHM ...
PATIENCE! ONE LAST EXPERIMENT, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK OUT OF HERE.
YOU PROMISED I COULD LEAVE SOON, PROFESSOR,
WHEN WILL I BE FREE TO GET OUT OF HERE?
IT'S NOT FAIR TO CALL YOU A MAN ANYMORE.
YOU'VE NOW ACQUIRED POWERS THAT MEN CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE.
...A MAJOR ROLE ?
YOU'VE BEEN REBORN AS A GOD, YOUR MISSION WILL BE TO LEAD MANKIND ON THE RIGHT PATH!
YOU'RE NOT A MAN, YOU'RE A GOD!
EH ...?
TODAY SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS IS THREATENING MANKIND WITH DESTRUCTION! NATURE HAS BEEN POLLUTED, THE HUMAN BODY DEFILED, CARNAGE ON THE ROAD WILL ONLY WORSE, EVERYTHING IS CONTAMINATED!
LISTEN WELL, FUJIMOTO!
UH ...?


...
ETERNAL LIFE, A COURAGE WHICH KNOWS NO LIMITS.... IT'S ALL WITHIN YOUR GRASP!
A NEW ENERGY IS PULSATING INSIDE YOU!
...BUT NOW, INSIDE YOU, A GOD IS SCREAMING TO BE HEARD!
UNTIL NOW YOU WERE JUST AN ORDINARY CLERK IN AN OFFICE...
GO AND RESTORE NATURE TO ITS ORIGINAL BEAUTY!
YOU'LL BECOME A GOD, AND YOU'LL LOOK OVER MOTHER NATURE! YOU'LL SAVE MANKIND FROM THIS HELL!


TRY CLENCHING YOUR FISTS WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT AND FEEL THAT AWESOME ENERGY RUSHING THROUGH YOUR BODY!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, FUJIMOTO?

PROCEED WITH THE FINAL TEST!
YES!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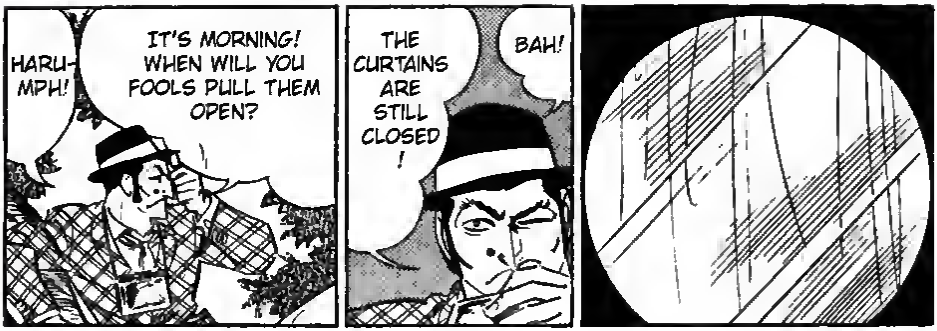
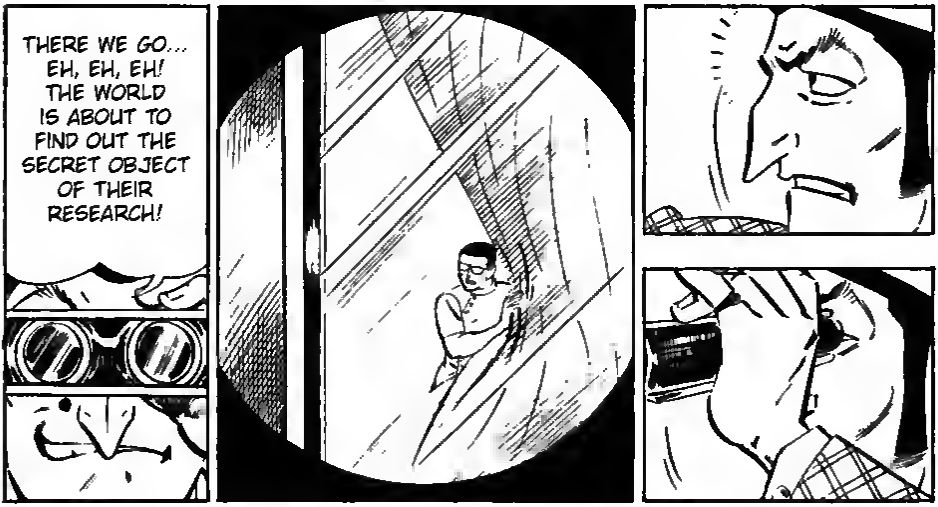
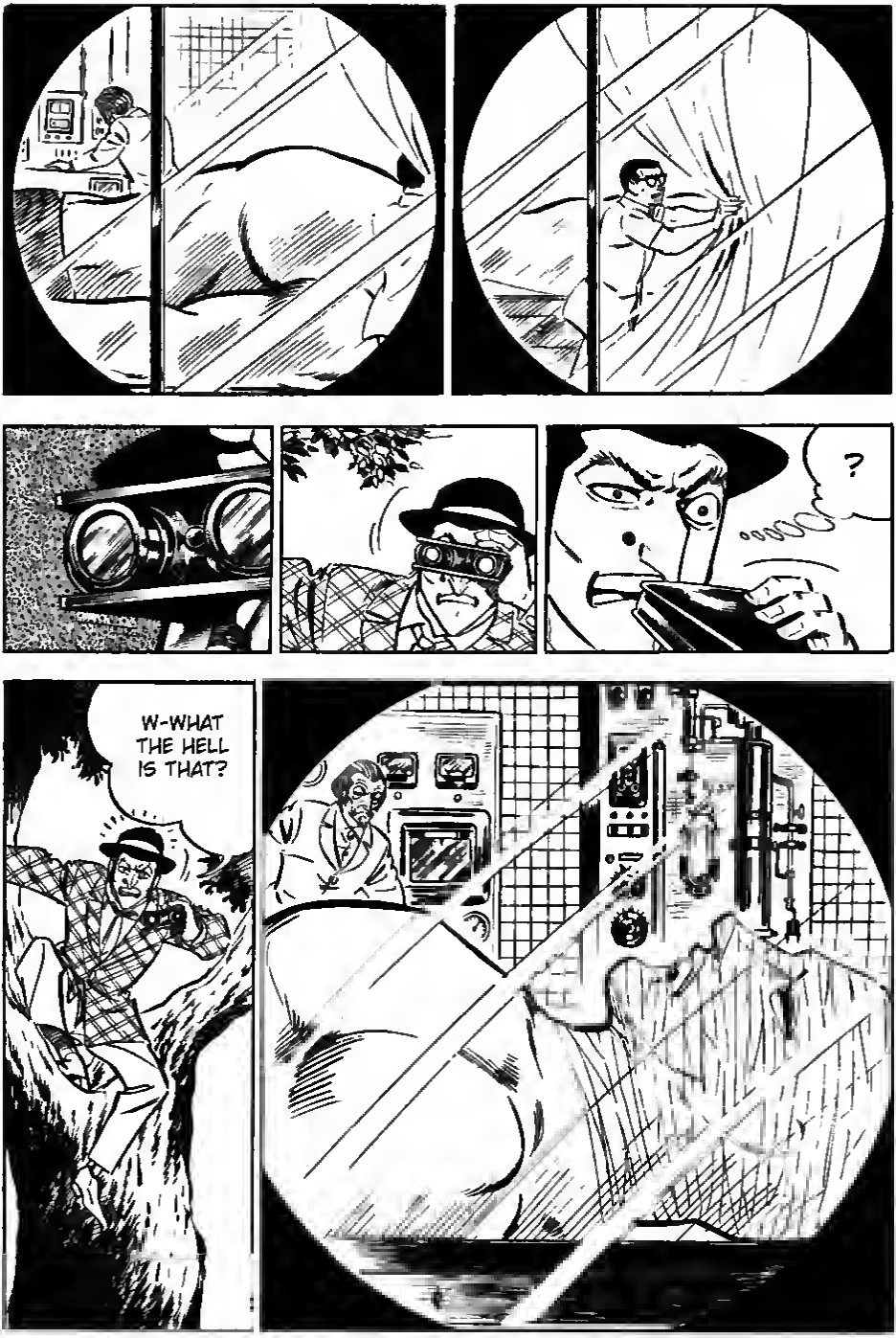
WE MADE IT, FUJIMOTO!
YES! WE MADE IT!
PERFECT! THE TEST RESULT WAS POSITIVE!
HURRY UP AND DRAW THE DAMN CURTAINS!
DAMN YOU GUYS!

EVEN THE WIND ...
AT DAWN, KARUIZAWA USUALLY OPENS ITS EYES TO THE JOYFUL SOUND OF BIRDSONG BUT... EVERYTHING WAS QUIET THAT DAY, AS IF NATURE WERE HOLDING ITS BREATH.
UHM... WHAT AN EERIE LIGHT, THOUGH...
IT'S ALREADY MORNING ...
OOOPS!


HARU-MPH!
IT'S MORNING! WHEN WILL YOU FOOLS PULL THEM OPEN?
THE CURTAINS ARE STILL CLOSED!
BAH!

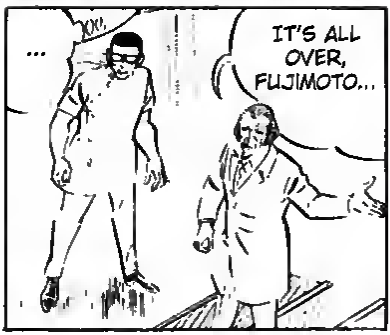

THERE WE GO... EH, EH, EH! THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO FIND OUT THE SECRET OBJECT OF THEIR RESEARCH!


?
W-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

!?
I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO THINK THEY LOST THEIR MARBLES.
WHAT ON EARTH WOULD ANYBODY WANT TO BUILD SUCH A HUGE PUPPET FOR?
URKK!

WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO RECOGNIZE YOU, SO I SURGICALLY REMODELLED YOUR FACE.

BUT WHAT ...?!


...
IT'S ALL OVER, FUJIMOTO...

...
BECAUSE, YOU SEE... YOU'RE NOT MASAO FUJIMOTO ANYMORE. YOU ARE NOW A GOD, ON A MISSION TO SAVE MANKIND!
T-THEY... CREATED... A... M-M-MONSTER...!
ARGH!
UH? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH... OH...! PROFES-SOR!

S-SORRY PROFESSOR... I'M... STARVING...
W-WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, FUJIMOTO.
SURE!
QUICK, KOJO, GO GET-
I WAS SO BUSY... IT COMPLETELY ESCAPED MY MIND ...!
WHY?
FROM NOW ON YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE ON NORMAL FOOD ANYMORE!
WHAT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO EXPLAIN TO YOU, FUJIMOTO...

HERE IT IS PROFESSOR.
THANKS, KOJO...
A NORMAL BOY NEEDS BETWEEN 2400 TO 2500 CALORIES A DAY.
I'M NOT SURE YOU'LL FOLLOW ME BUT...
IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE, GIVEN YOUR LEVEL OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY...
...YOU NEEDED 2500 CALORIES DAILY. NOW, HOWEVER, YOU NEED MORE THAN 44 TIMES THAT AMOUNT... ABOUT 100,000 CALORIES!
...OR 10 JOULES OF ENERGY. AND THAT'S THE VERY MINIMUM!
...THAT ?
THIS, FUJIMOTO, WILL BE YOUR FOOD FROM NOW ON!
DON'T WORRY.
...ONCE YOU RUN OUT OF THOSE I'LL...
BUT THEN ...
...YOU'LL BE TAKING TWO OF THESE EVERY DAY.
THIS CAPSULE CONTAINS A CONCENTRATE OF ALL THE NUTRIENTS YOU NEED! STARTING TODAY...

I SEE...
ALL THE CONTENTS OF THIS CAPSULE WILL BE ABSORBED BY YOUR BODY. YOU WON'T NEED TO USE A TOILET EVER AGAIN.
THANKS.
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE ONE OF THESE, IN CASE YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN ONE DAY.
NO, THANKS. UHM...
I'M OFF TO TOKYO TO BUY SUPPLIES, PROFESSOR. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
MY BROTH-ER...
WHAT IS IT, FUJIMOTO ?
EXCUSE ME, KOJO...

WELL, YOU SEE... FUJIMOTO HAD GROWN VERY ATTACHED TO A BOY...AND... HE ALMOST CONSIDERED HIM LIKE A ...BROTHER. AND NOW HE'S WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
...A BROTHER? WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT ?
...
Y-YES... PROFESSOR...
IS THAT RIGHT, FUJIMOTO ?
MY... MY HEAD IS S-SPINNING...

181

180

I'LL BE LIKE A GOD TO THEM!

IH, IH, IH! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE ALL THESE WORTHLESS PEOPLE DANCE AT MY COMMAND!

HELLO, KOJO.

PROFESSOR KOBAYAGAWA'S...
WHAT?
I'M YOJIRO, THE PROFESSOR'S BROTHER.
EH, EH! HAVE A CLOSER LOOK, KOJO!
...YOU... HERE!?
P-PROFESSOR!
P-PLEASE, PLEASE!
...MIND IF I SIT DOWN?
IT CAN BE VERY USEFUL WHEN YOU OWE PEOPLE MONEY... AH, HA, AH!
I'M S-SORRY, I...
EH, EH... IDENTICAL TWINS CAN CAUSE QUITE A HEADACHE!
I'LL BE GOING BACK TO KYOTO TOMORROW...
I'M HERE FOR A CONFERENCE.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
IT MUST BE VERY HARD ON YOU TOO, ISN'T IT?
NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING BUSY, BUT HIS IS A REAL OBSESSION.
HE'S FINE. HIS RESEARCH KEEPS HIM VERY BUSY.
SO... HOW'S MY BROTHER DOING?

MY BROTHER ...
AH, AH, AH!
THANK YOU, AND I'M VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
NOT AT ALL. I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING AN ASSISTANT TO A MEDICAL GENIUS!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT... THE ONLY THING WE SHARE IS OUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.
WE'RE IDENTICAL TWINS, BUT WE HAVE OPPOSITE PERSONALITIES.
... HATES CITIES AND CIVILIZATION, I'M DIFFERENT.
ARE YOU SAYING DEEP DOWN WE'RE BOTH EQUALLY CUCKOO?
...YOU'RE BOTH AUTHORITIES IN YOUR FIELDS. YOU BOTH HAVE UNIQUE BRAINS!
AS DIFFERENT AS YOUR DISCIPLINES ARE, MEDICINE AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING...
...WELL, HAVING COMING ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO, I GUESS I SHOULD TRY TO SEE HIM BEFORE I HEAD BACK...
UHM ...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO SEE YOUR BROTHER NEXT, PROFESSOR?
AH, AH! JUST JOKING! JUST JOKING.
N-NO, I DIDN'T MEAN-

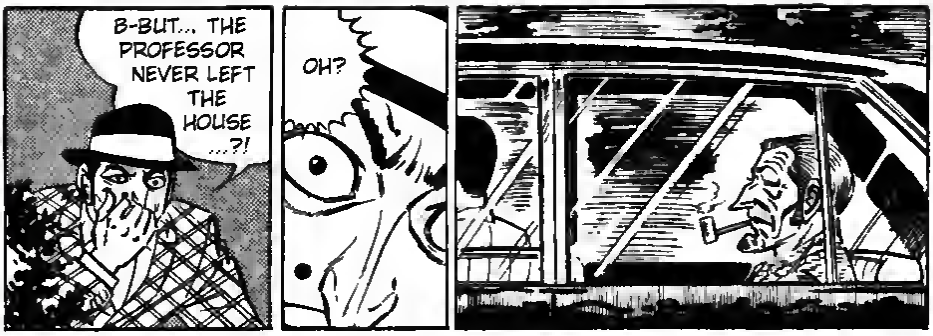
THANKS FOR THE OFFER.
I'M DRIVING BACK ANYWAY.
HOW ABOUT IF WE GO BACK TOGETHER ?
...
TAKE YOUR TIME.
JUST THE TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY FRIENDS OVER THERE AND I'M READY.
NO WONDER THEY DON'T GET ALONG!
GOOD SOCIAL SKILLS AND PLENTY OF CUNNING... SO UNLIKE HIS BROTHER.

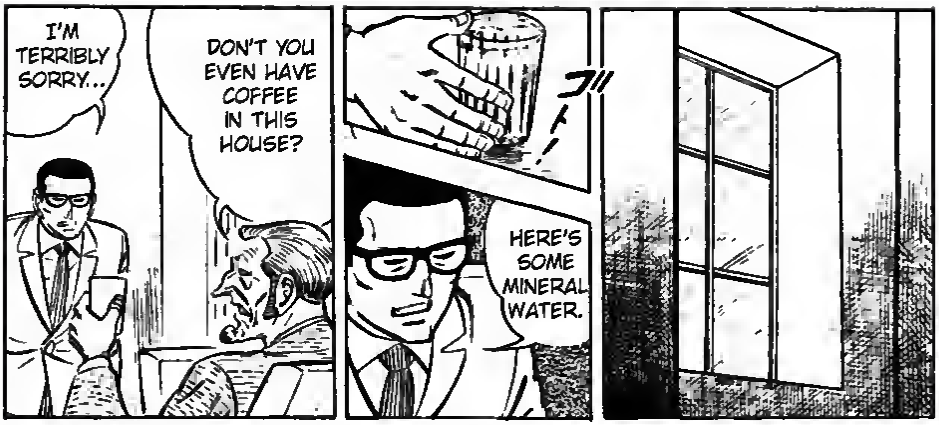
...WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING TO DO WITH THAT MONSTROSITYR?
BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS...

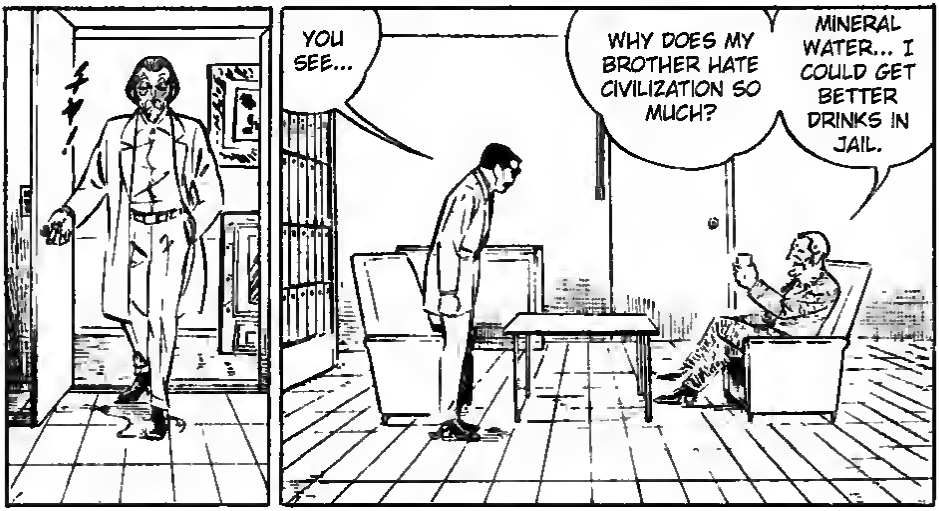
... DID THEY REALLY CREATE THAT HUGE CREATURE THEMSELVES ...?

...THEY'VE COMPLETELY GONE INSANE!
BAH, ONE THING'S FOR SURE THOUGH

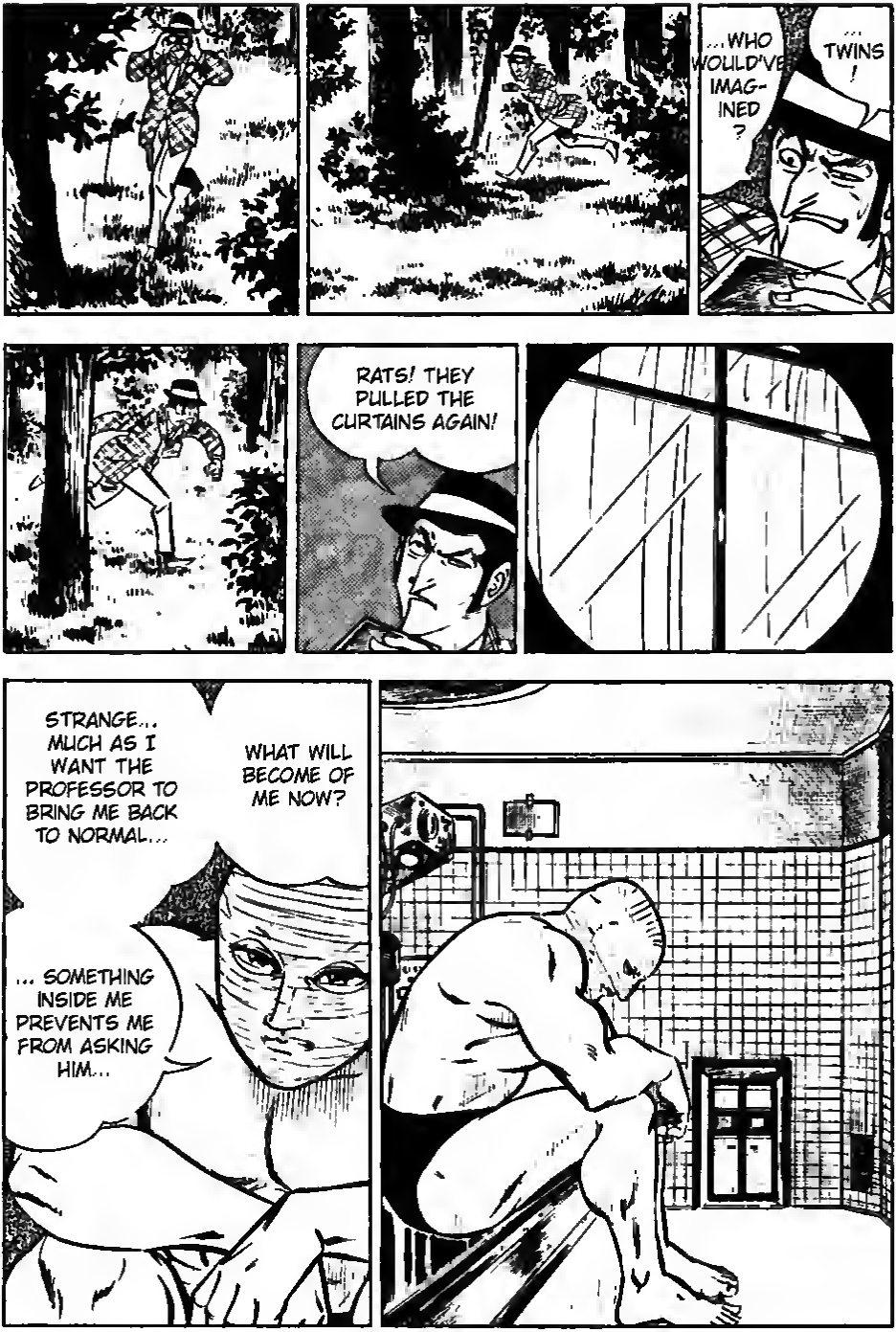
THAT PUNK, KOJO, IS BACK..


B-BUT... THE PROFESSOR NEVER LEFT THE HOUSE ...?!
OH?


I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...
DON'T YOU EVEN HAVE COFFEE IN THIS HOUSE?
ブッ!
HERE'S SOME MINERAL WATER.


チャ!
YOU SEE...
WHY DOES MY BROTHER HATE CIVILIZATION SO MUCH?
MINERAL WATER... I COULD GET BETTER DRINKS IN JAIL.

...
BUT WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
UHM...
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD.
...
...YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'D JUST SEEN YOUR WORST ENEMY! AH, AH, AH!


...WHO WOULD'VE IMAGINED?
...TWINS!
RATS! THEY PULLED THE CURTAINS AGAIN!
STRANGE... MUCH AS I WANT THE PROFESSOR TO BRING ME BACK TO NORMAL...
... SOMETHING INSIDE ME PREVENTS ME FROM ASKING HIM...
WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME NOW?

WHO'S THE REAL ME? EVEN MY THOUGHTS SEEM TO HAVE GRADUALLY CHANGED...
...WHEN I LOOK BACK ON MY PREVIOUS LIFE... EVERYTHING SEEMS BLURRED, AS IF IT ALL HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...
SOMEHOW... A PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT TO GO BACK... I HAVE THIS FEELING LIKE... A WONDERFUL NEW WORLD IS WAITING FOR ME IN THE FUTURE.
AKIO...

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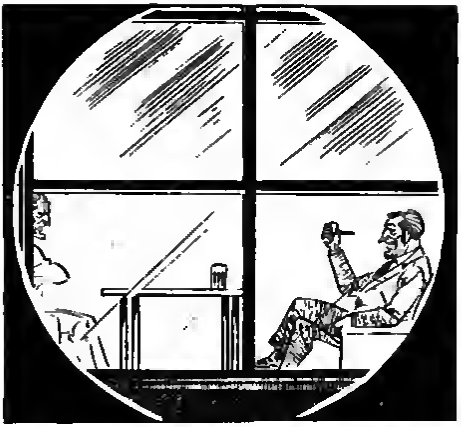
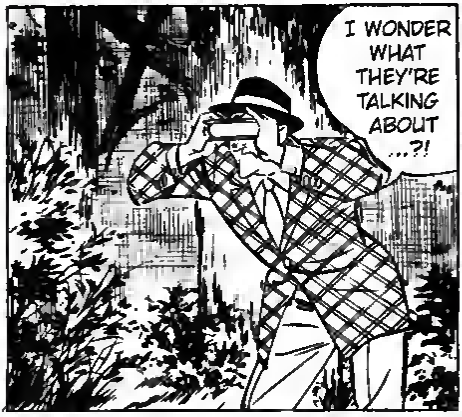
ガタン
ゴトン

NOT BAD.
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY?
HOME SWEET HOME!
...LEAST I CAN DO. AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
IT'S THE VERY...
OH, YOU'VE MADE DINNER AGAIN, THAT'S SO THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.
YOU OWE ME NOTH-ING.
WHAT? I JUST TOOK YOU IN FOR A FEW DAYS.
I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING. THE DOCTORS ARE TRYING EVERYTHING BUT...
...I TAKE IT THERE'RE NO IMPROVE-MENTS, UH?
...
...YEAH ...
BY THE WAY, DID YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY?

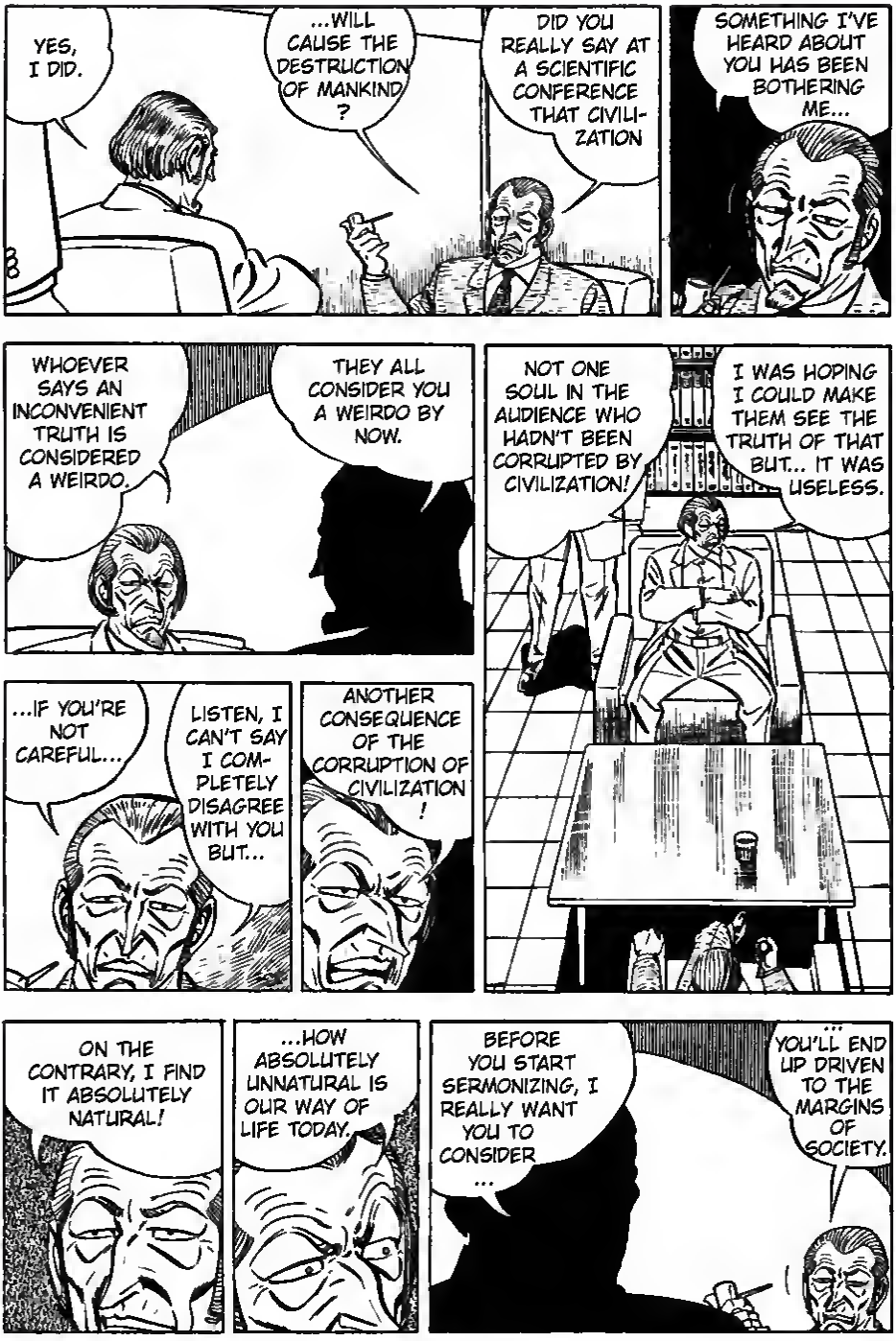
A COP CAME TO SEE ME AT WORK TODAY... SAYS NO BOYS YOUR AGE HAVE BEEN REPORTED MISSING.
COME ON, LET'S EAT!
PATIENCE, BOYO, PATIENCE ...
...
STRANGE, I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY...
I SEE...
モグ
モグ……
NAH...
YOU'VE BARELY TOUCHED THE FOOD. HAVE MORE.

IT'S NO GOOD TO WORRY. YOU HEARD THE DOCTORS, WORRYING WILL ONLY MAKE YOUR AMNESIA WORSE. AND I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY MUST BE LOOKING FOR YOU... EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
...
I'M FULL. CAN'T EAT ANYMORE.
...
YES.

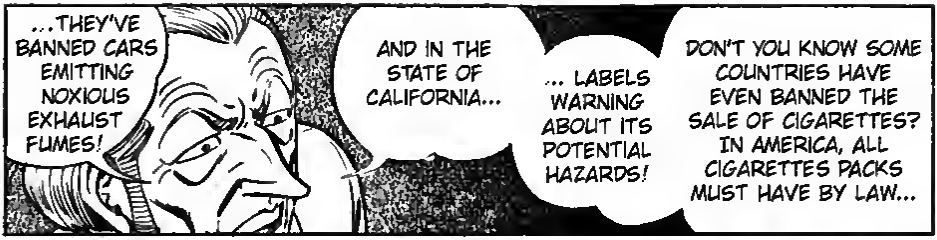


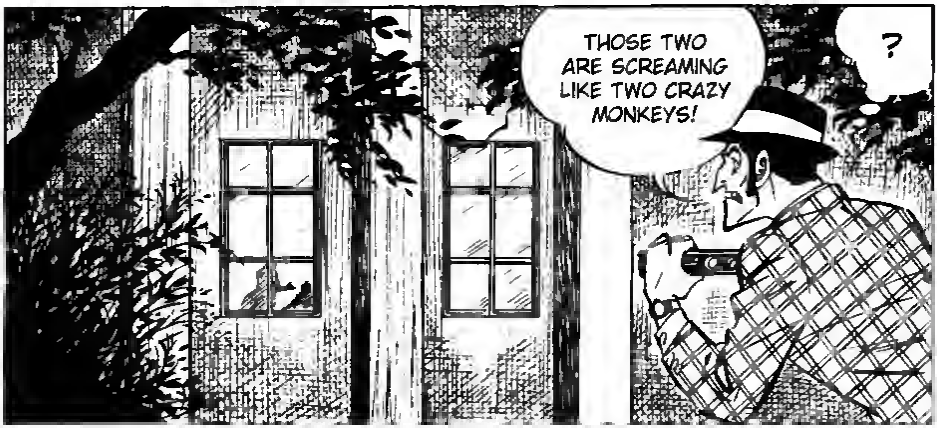

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ...?!

IF I COULD HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, I'D PROBABLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MONSTER'S FOR...

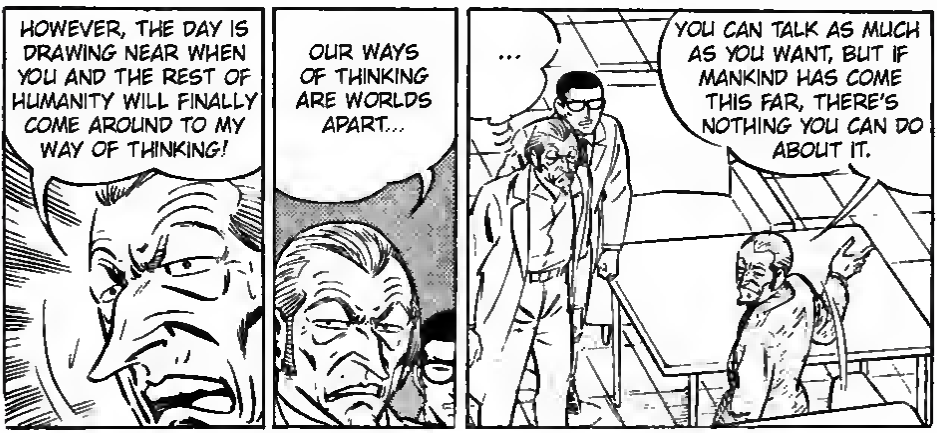

YES, I DID.
...WILL CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF MANKIND?
DID YOU REALLY SAY AT A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE THAT CIVILIZATION
SOMETHING I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME...
WHOEVER SAYS AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH IS CONSIDERED A WEIRDO.
THEY ALL CONSIDER YOU A WEIRDO BY NOW.
NOT ONE SOUL IN THE AUDIENCE WHO HADN'T BEEN CORRUPTED BY CIVILIZATION!
I WAS HOPING I COULD MAKE THEM SEE THE TRUTH OF THAT BUT... IT WAS USELESS.
...IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL...
LISTEN, I CAN'T SAY I COMPLETELY DISAGREE WITH YOU BUT...
ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE OF THE CORRUPTION OF CIVILIZATION!
ON THE CONTRARY, I FIND IT ABSOLUTELY NATURAL!
...HOW ABSOLUTELY UNNATURAL IS OUR WAY OF LIFE TODAY.
BEFORE YOU START SERMONIZING, I REALLY WANT YOU TO CONSIDER ...
... YOU'LL END UP DRIVEN TO THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY.

P-PRO-FESSOR!
...A SOCIETY IN A CONSTANT STATE OF UNSATISFACTION ...
YOU CALL THIS NATURAL?
MAN LIVING IN FEAR OF MACHINES HE HIMSELF HAS CREATED... THE STENCH OF THE AIR... THE STENCH OF THE EARTH...
ガタッ!!
THIS IS HOW MAN HAS TRANSFORMED THE EARTH THROUGH THE POWER OF HIS INTELLECT! OF COURSE IT'S NATURAL!
...
...MAN HAS MUCH USE FOR IT AT ALL!
INTELLECT YOU SAY? DOESN'T SEEM TO ME...
YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?
...
OH... WAS IT OKAY TO SMOKE HERE?
シュ!


...THEY'VE BANNED CARS EMITTING NOXIOUS EXHAUST FUMES!
AND IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA...
... LABELS WARNING ABOUT ITS POTENTIAL HAZARDS!
DON'T YOU KNOW SOME COUNTRIES HAVE EVEN BANNED THE SALE OF CIGARETTES? IN AMERICA, ALL CIGARETTES PACKS MUST HAVE BY LAW...

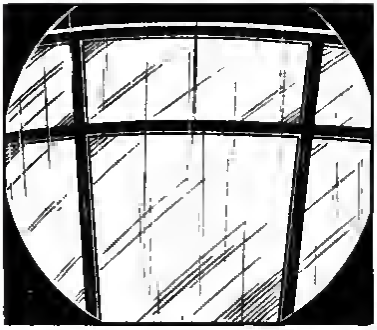

THOSE TWO ARE SCREAMING LIKE TWO CRAZY MONKEYS!
?

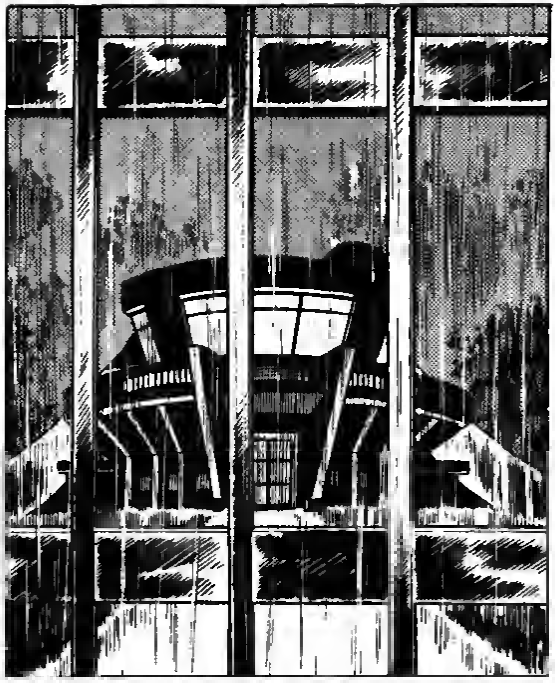
I GOT IT, I GOT IT.
...AND WHAT ABOUT THE "FOOD" WE'RE POISONING OURSELVES WITH?


HOWEVER, THE DAY IS DRAWING NEAR WHEN YOU AND THE REST OF HUMANITY WILL FINALLY COME AROUND TO MY WAY OF THINKING!
OUR WAYS OF THINKING ARE WORLDS APART...
...
YOU CAN TALK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT, BUT IF MANKIND HAS COME THIS FAR, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

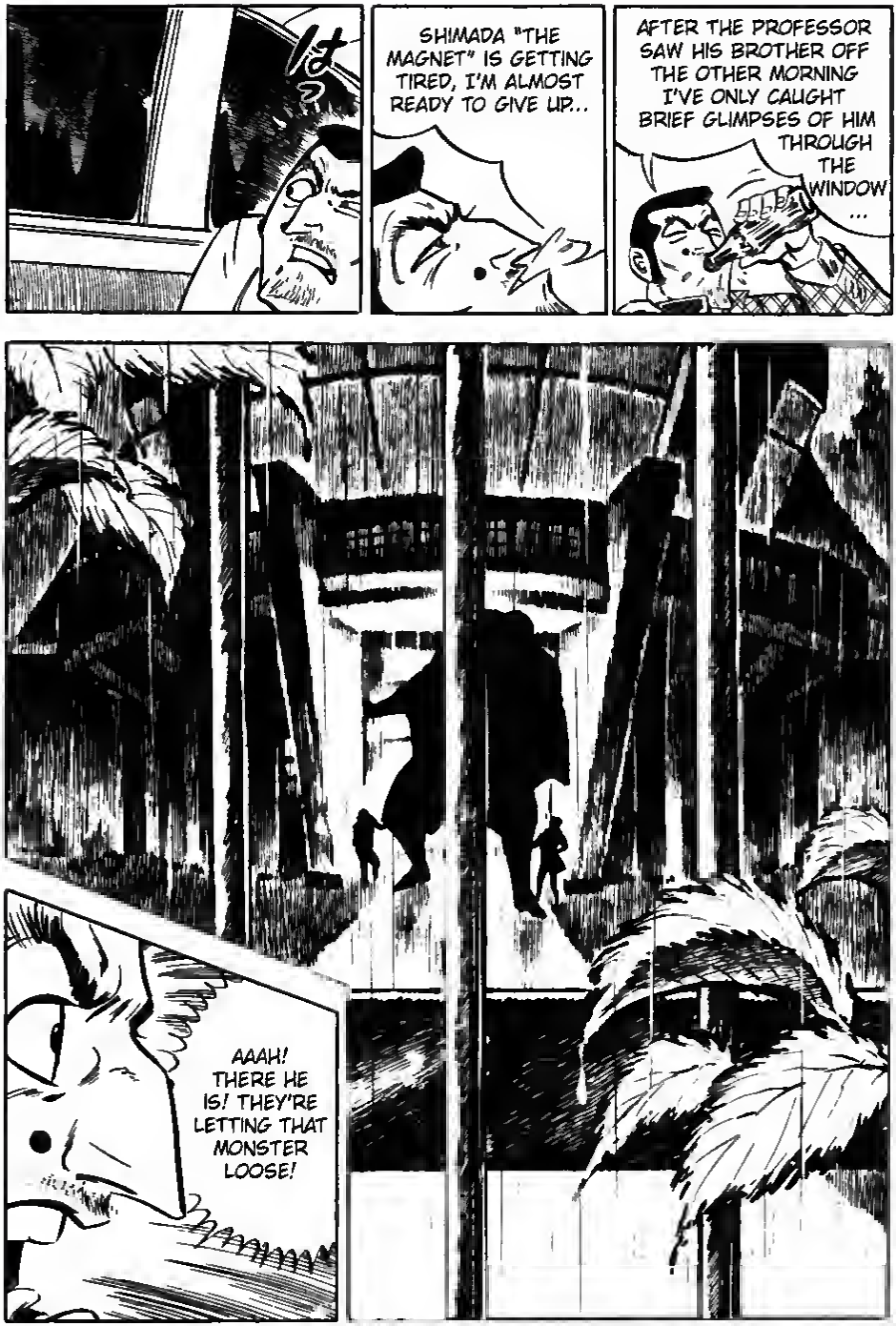
...
...
AND THEN EVERY-BODY WILL UNDER-STAND!
...HOW IT'S NEVER BEEN AFFECTED BY FIRES, EARTH-QUAKES OR OTHER NATURAL DISAS-TERS.
I'VE BEEN REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO STUDY THE INCREDIBLE STATE OF PRESERVATION OF THE GREAT BUDDHA STATUE IN NARA...
...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT... I ONLY IMPLORE YOU NOT DRAG MY NAME IN THE MUD ALONG WITH YOURS.
INTELLECT IS WHAT DISTIN-GUISHES MAN FROM BEAST!
...
...WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW YOU HOW WONDERFUL...
I'M WORKING ON THE SITE AT THE MOMENT, AND SOON I TOO...
...MAN'S INTELLECT AND THE CIVILIZATION IT HAS CREATED REALLY ARE!
...
...
YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT SCIENTIFIC CIVILIZATION!

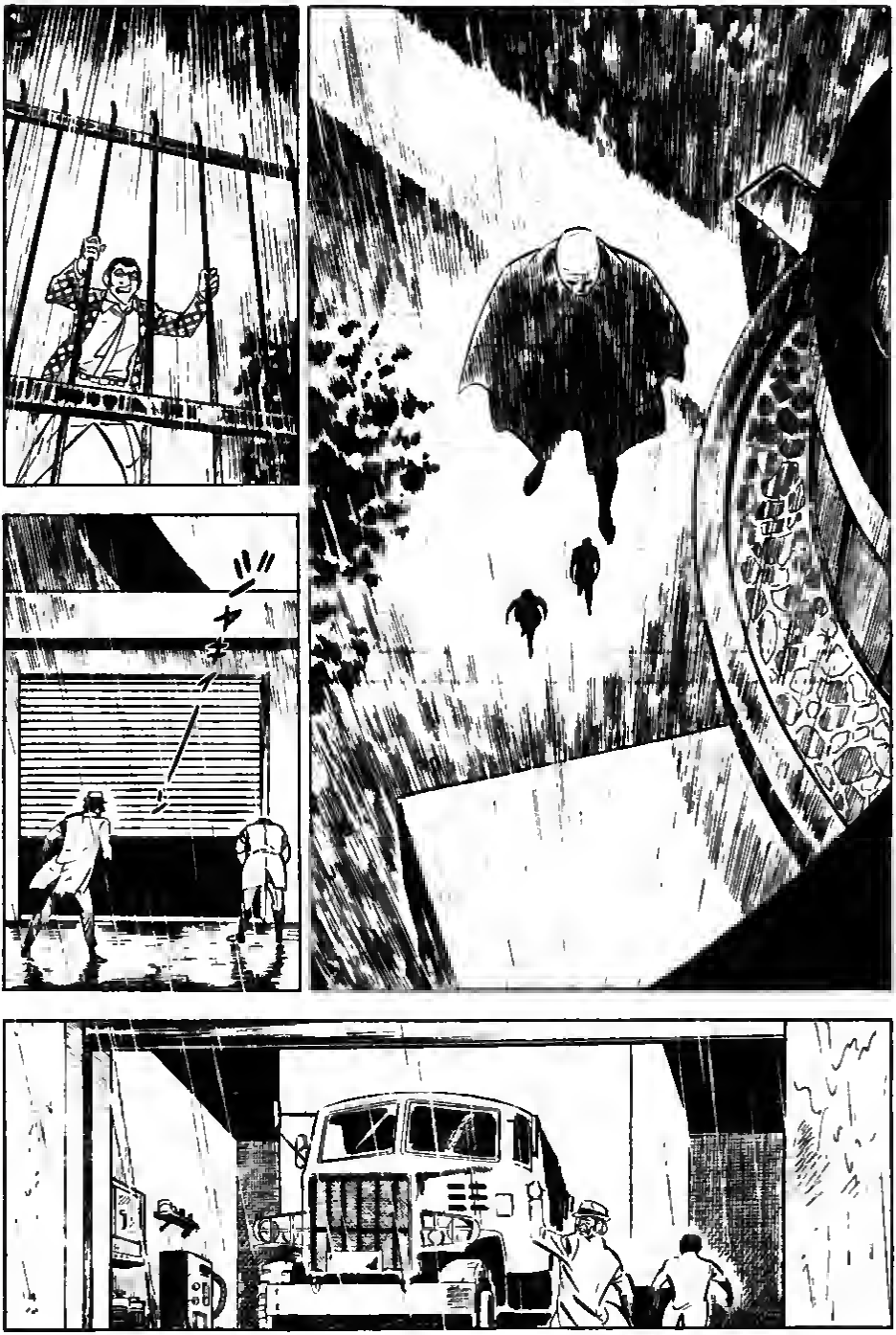
...WHAT THE HELL IS HE ON ABOUT?
...THE STATE OF PRESERVATION OF THE GREAT BUDDHA...?! ...THE POWER OF SCIENCE ...?!
...ABOUT YOU. AH, AH, AH!!
I COULD SAY THE SAME THING ...
YOU'RE BEYOND SALVATION, I SEE...
SOMETHING'S UP... I WONDER WHAT SECRET PROJECT HE'S WORKING ON.
ONE MINUTE THEY YELL AT EACH OTHER, THE NEXT THEY'RE LAUGHING OUT LOUD!
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE THEY GOING TO GO ON TALKING ?



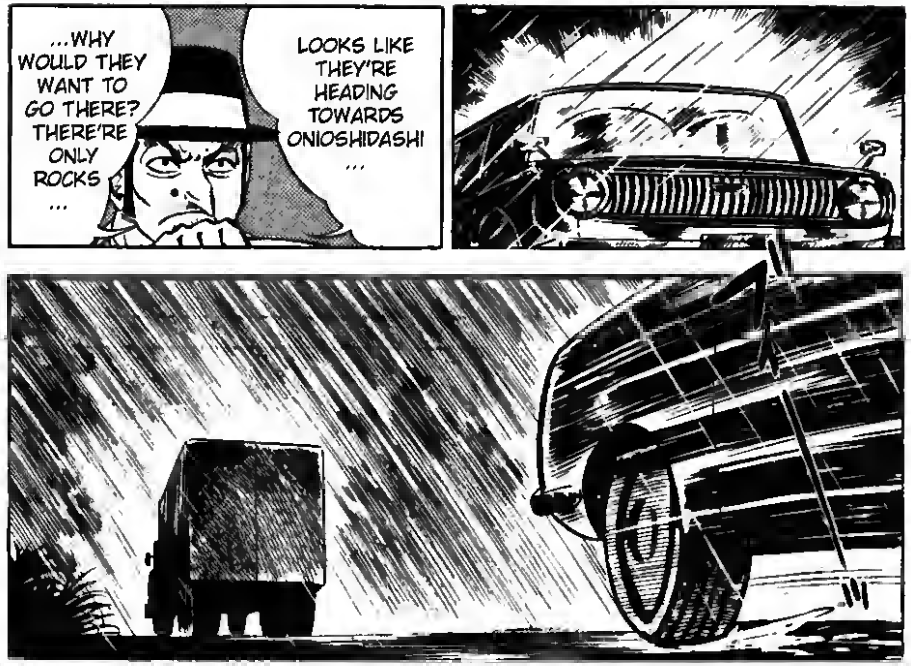


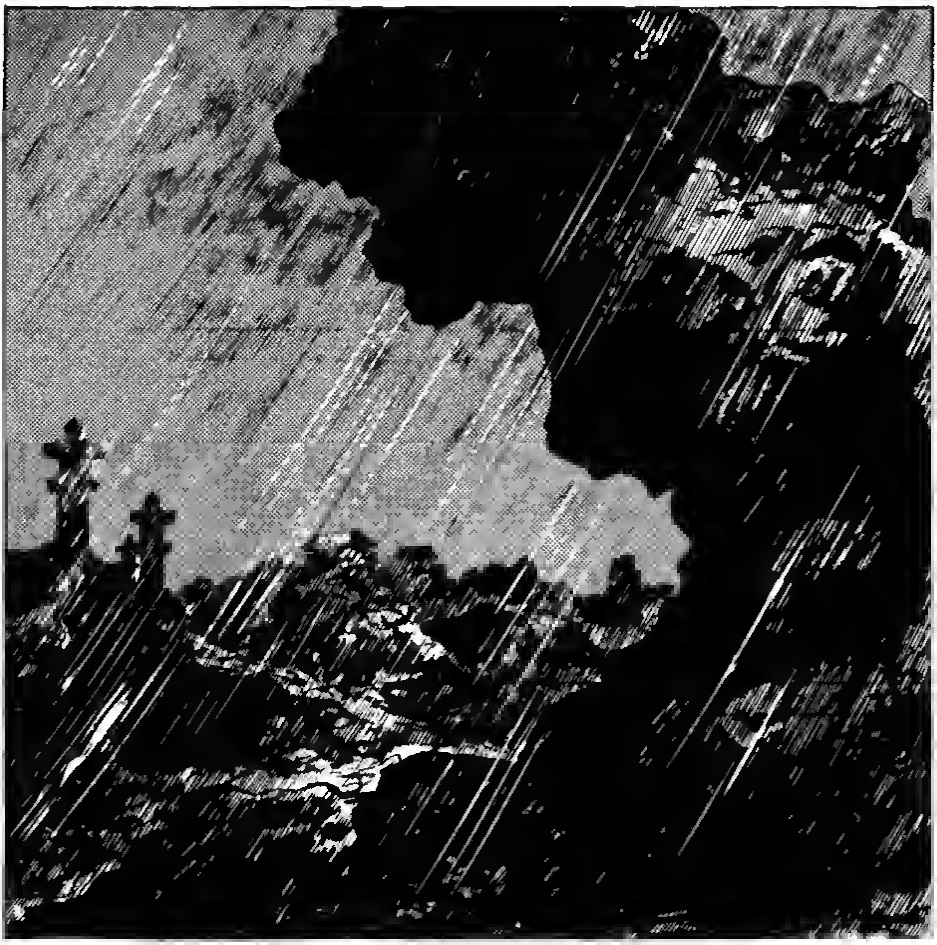
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING IN THERE? NO ONE HAS LEFT THE HOUSE IN THREE DAYS!

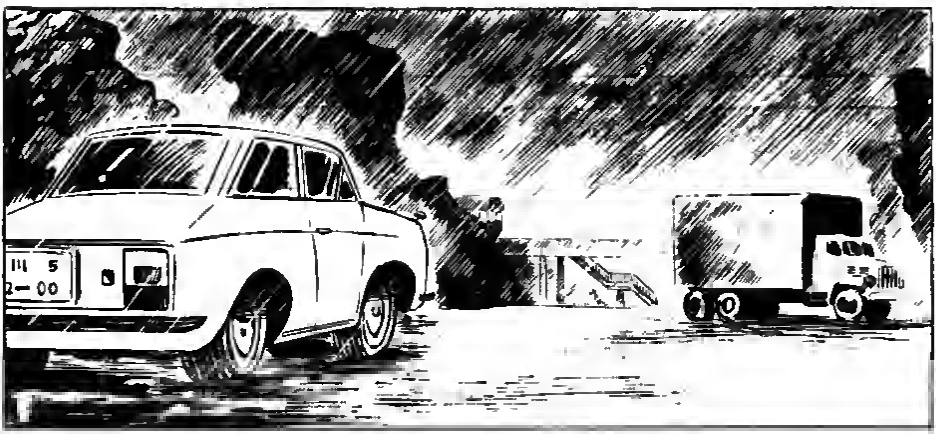

Ha?
SHIMADA "THE MAGNET" IS GETTING TIRED, I'M ALMOST READY TO GIVE UP...
AFTER THE PROFESSOR SAW HIS BROTHER OFF THE OTHER MORNING I'VE ONLY CAUGHT BRIEF GLIMPSES OF HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW ...
AAAH! THERE HE IS! THEY'RE LETTING THAT MONSTER LOOSE!

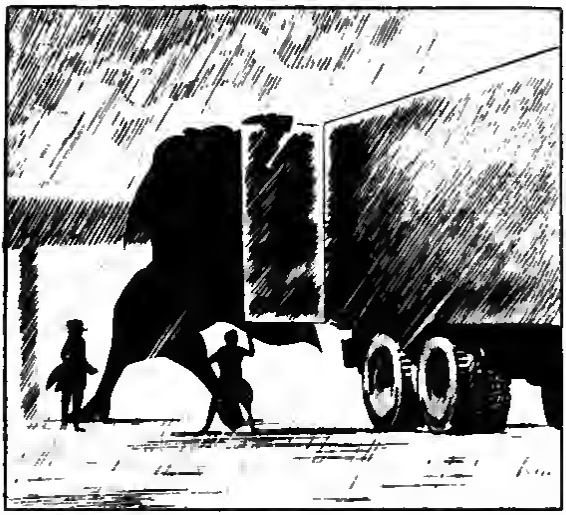


WHERE COULD THEY POSSIBLY TAKE THAT MONSTER TO?


...WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO GO THERE? THERE'RE ONLY ROCKS ...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HEADING TOWARDS ONIOSHIDASHI ...

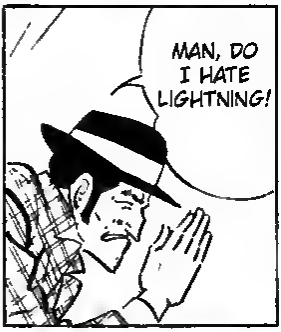




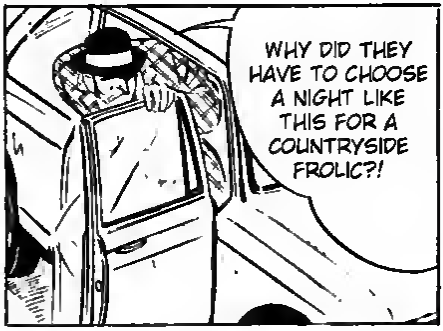


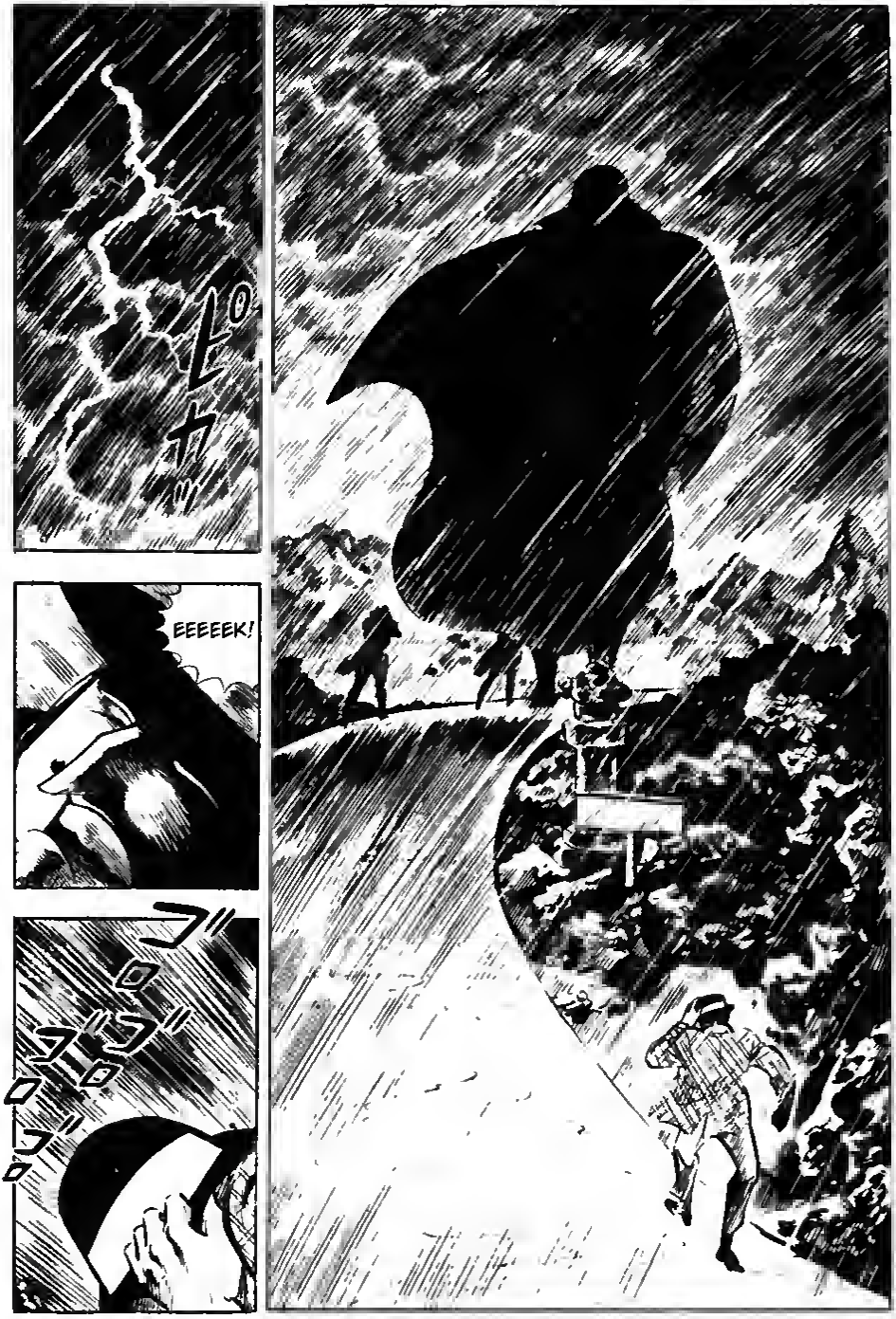
WHAT A WEIRD PLACE. I WONDER ...
...WHAT THEY CAME HERE FOR.

JEEZE!


MAN, DO I HATE LIGHTNING!

I'M JUST HOPING THERE WON'T BE ANY LIGHTNING!


WHY DID THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE A NIGHT LIKE THIS FOR A COUNTRYSIDE FROLIC?!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EEEEEK!
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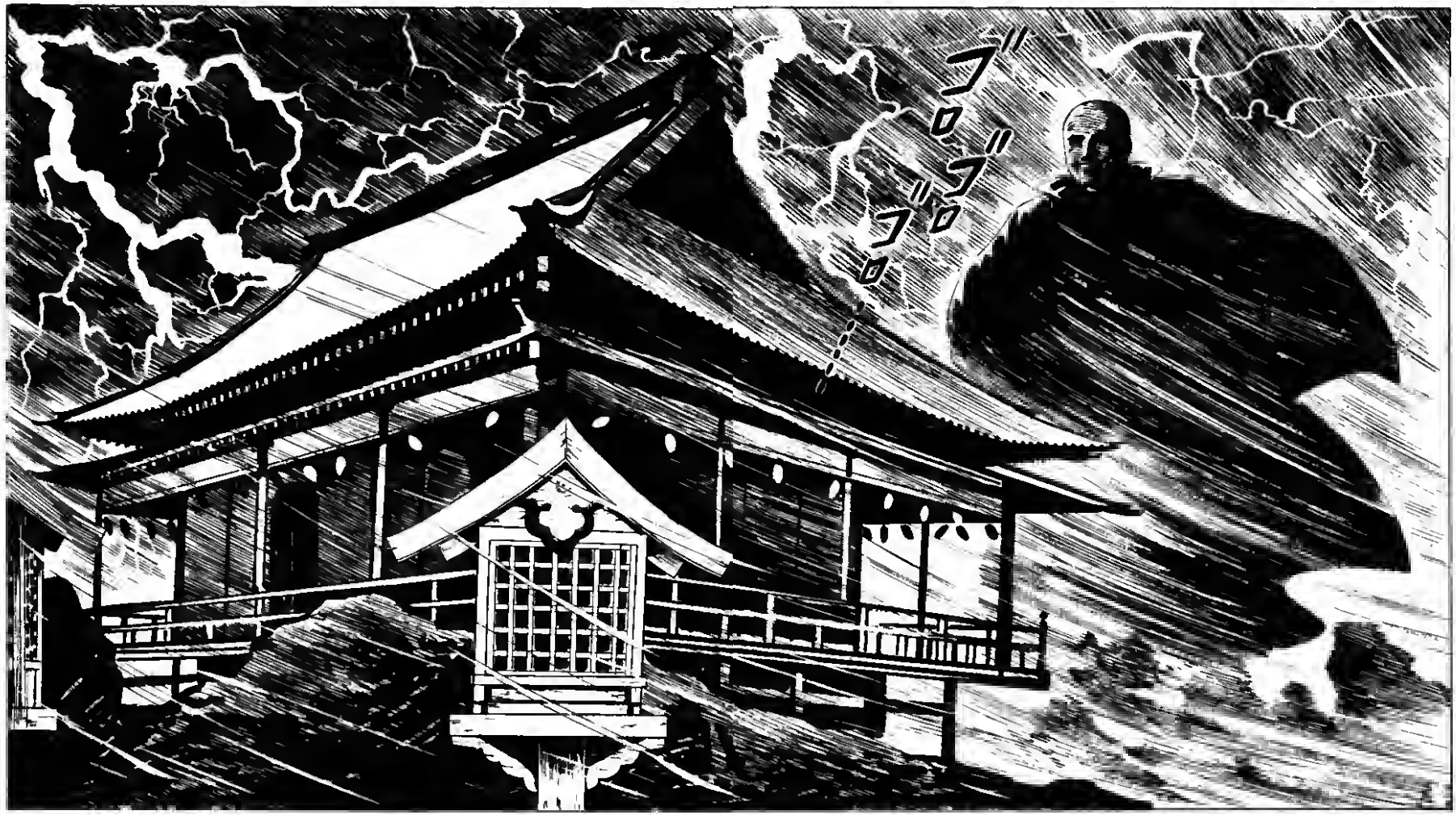
PHEW!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT HERE. EH, EH, EH...
NO WAY I'M GOING OUT AGAIN TO SEE WHERE THEY WENT!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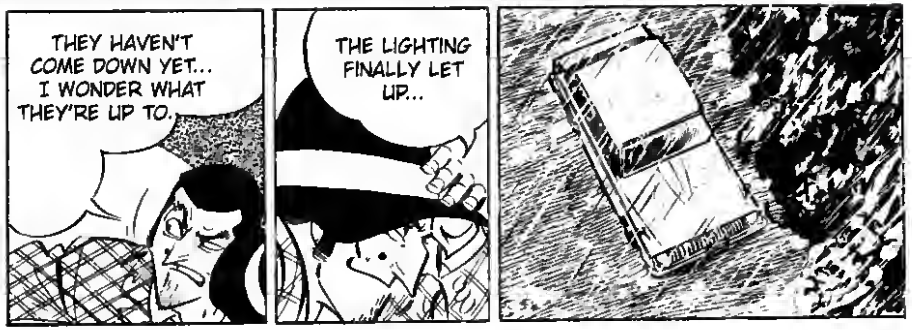
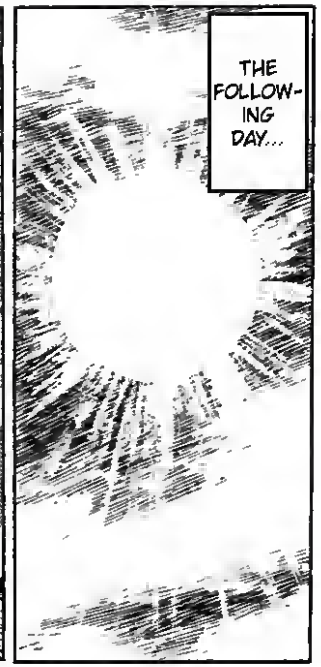
B-BUT... THERE'S ONLY TWO OF THEM!
T-THEY'RE BACK!

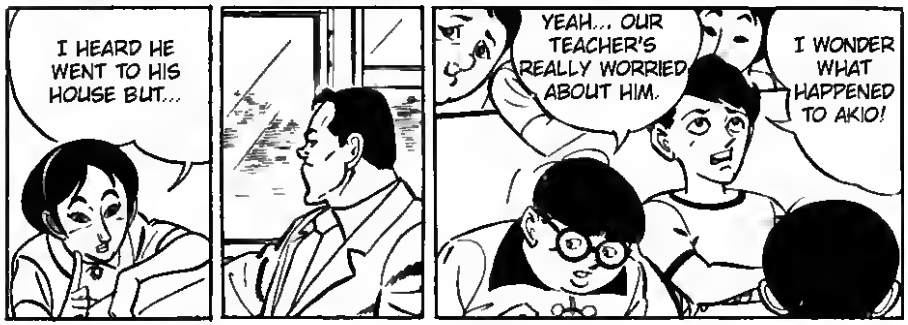

THEY HAVEN'T COME DOWN YET... I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
THE LIGHTING FINALLY LET UP...

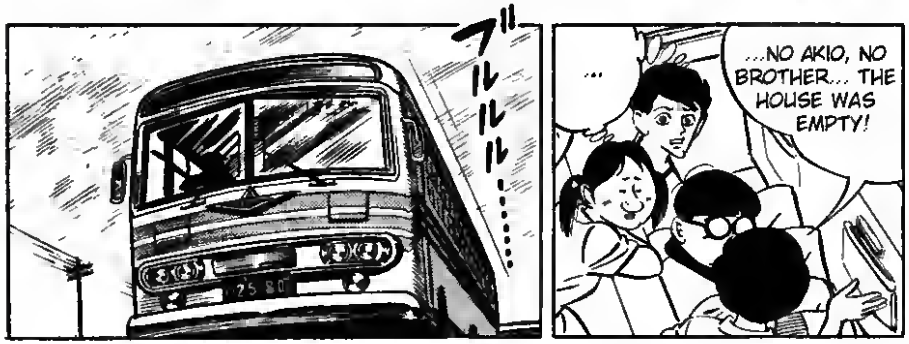
WHERE DID THAT MONSTER GO?

HE'S NOT HERE ?!
HE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT!?
T-THAT MONSTER HAS... VANISHED!

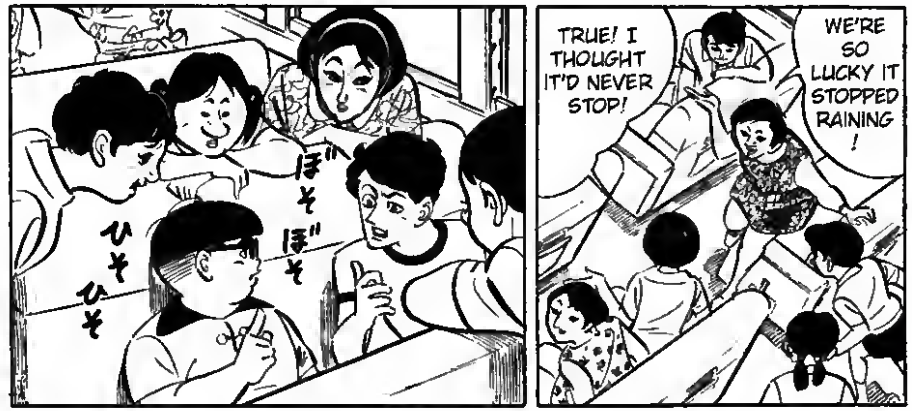
ONIOSHIDASHI, ABOUT ONE HOUR DRIVE FROM KARUIZAWA, AT THE BORDER OF NAGANO AND GUNMA PREFECTURES, IS A PLAIN LITTERED WITH VOLCANIC ROCKS FROM NEARBY ASAMA VOLCANO.


THE FOLLOW-ING DAY...


I HEARD HE WENT TO HIS HOUSE BUT...
YEAH... OUR TEACHER'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO AKIO!


ブルルル……
...
...NO AKIO, NO BROTHER... THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY!

SEINAN INSTITUTE
青南学園様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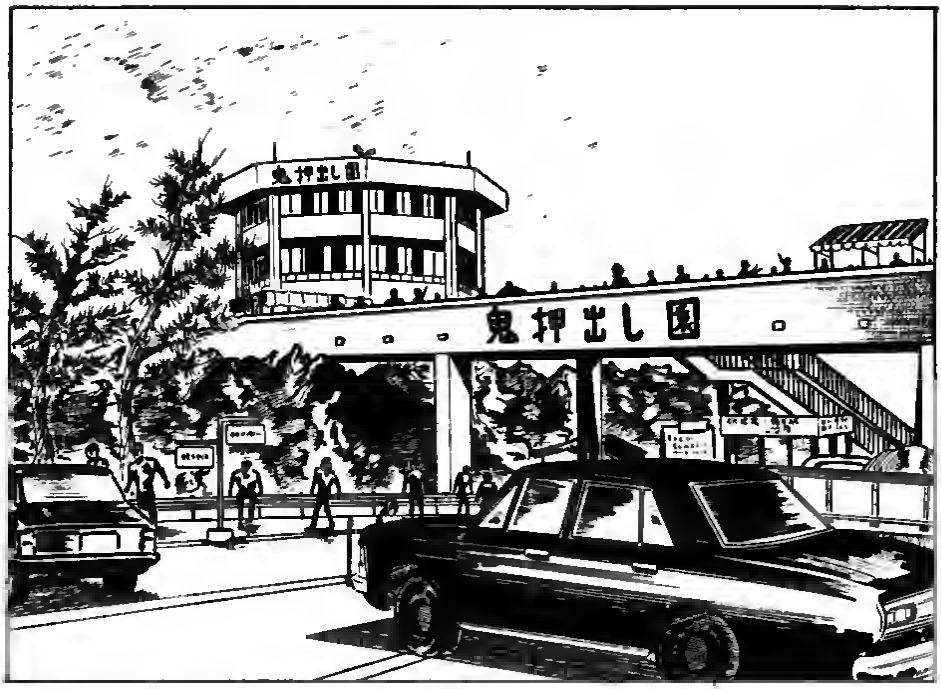
TRUE! I THOUGHT IT'D NEVER STOP!
WE'RE SO LUCKY IT STOPPED RAINING!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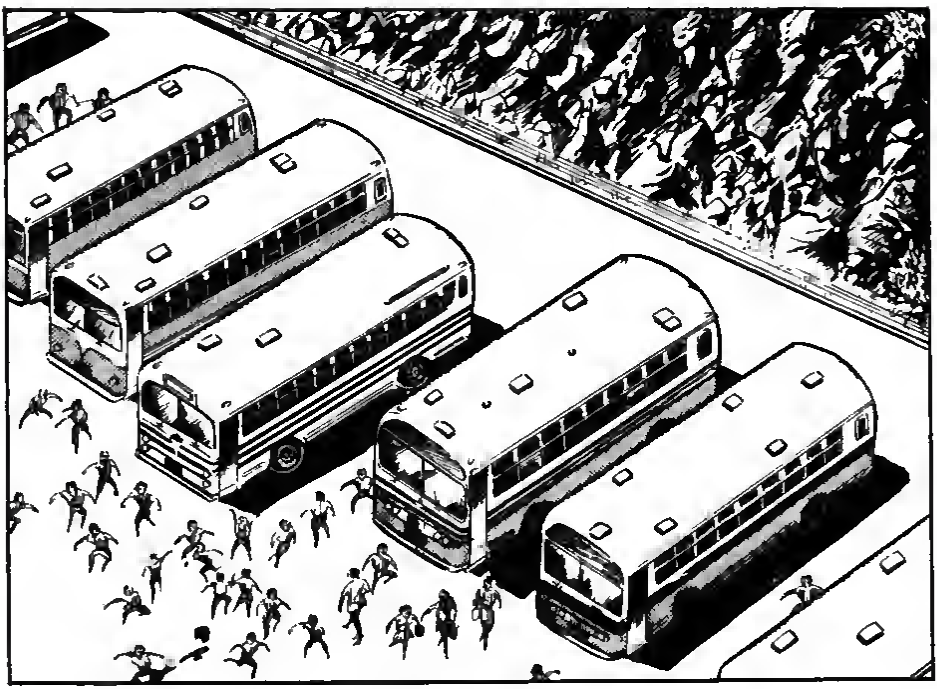
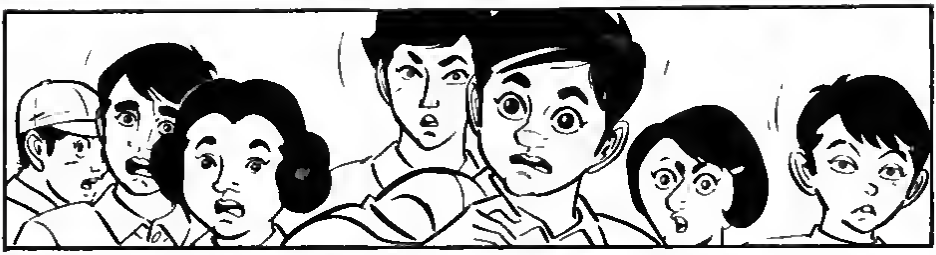
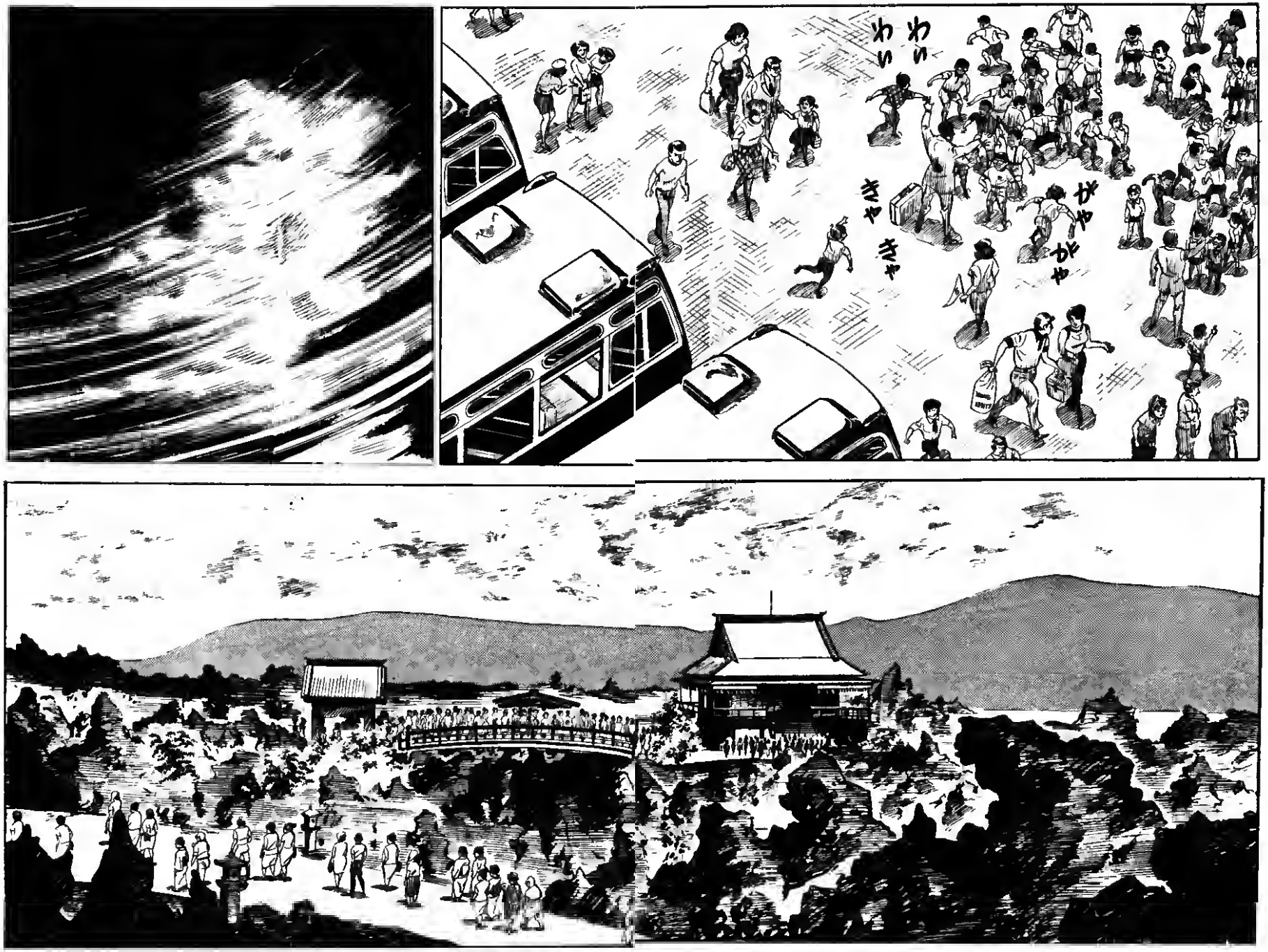




COME ON, EVERYBODY! GET IN LINE!
YEAH, ME TOO...
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THEM ...



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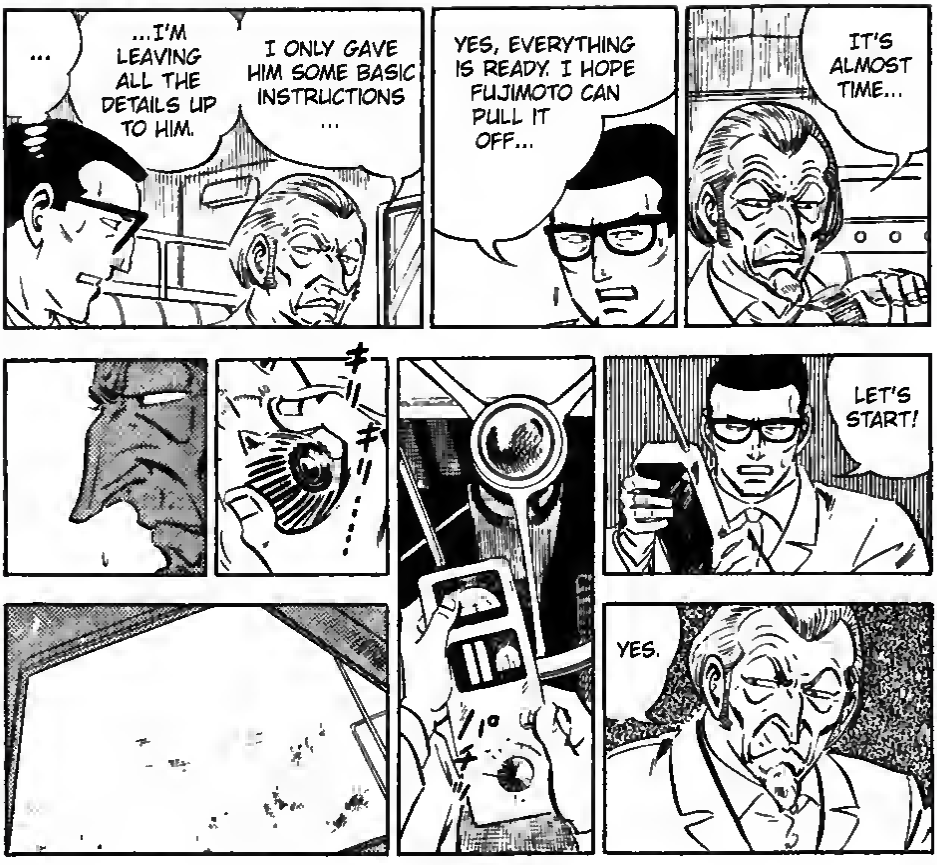
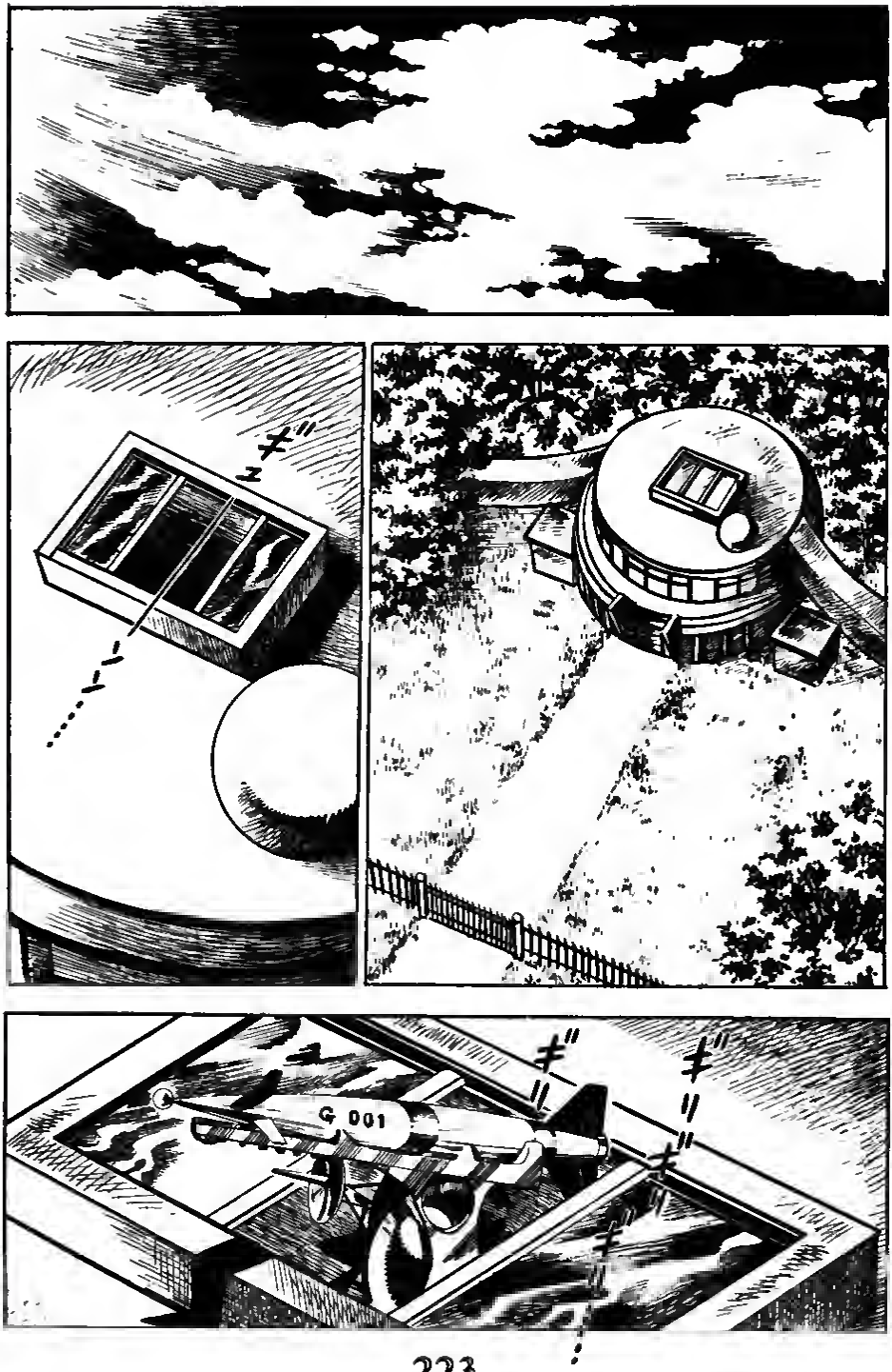

...
...I'M LEAVING ALL THE DETAILS UP TO HIM.
I ONLY GAVE HIM SOME BASIC INSTRUCTIONS ...
YES, EVERYTHING IS READY. I HOPE FUJIMOTO CAN PULL IT OFF...
IT'S ALMOST TIME...
LET'S START!
YES.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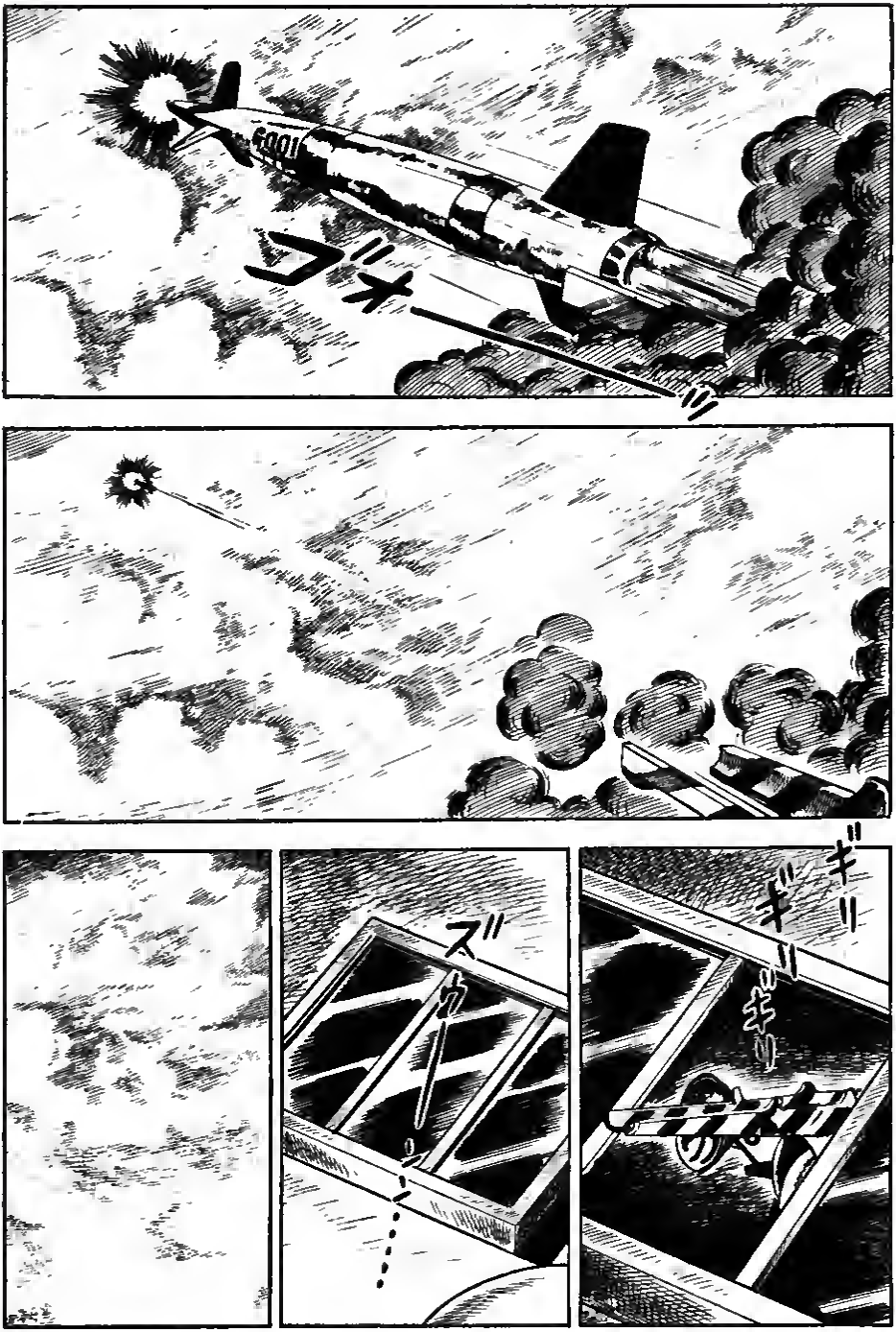
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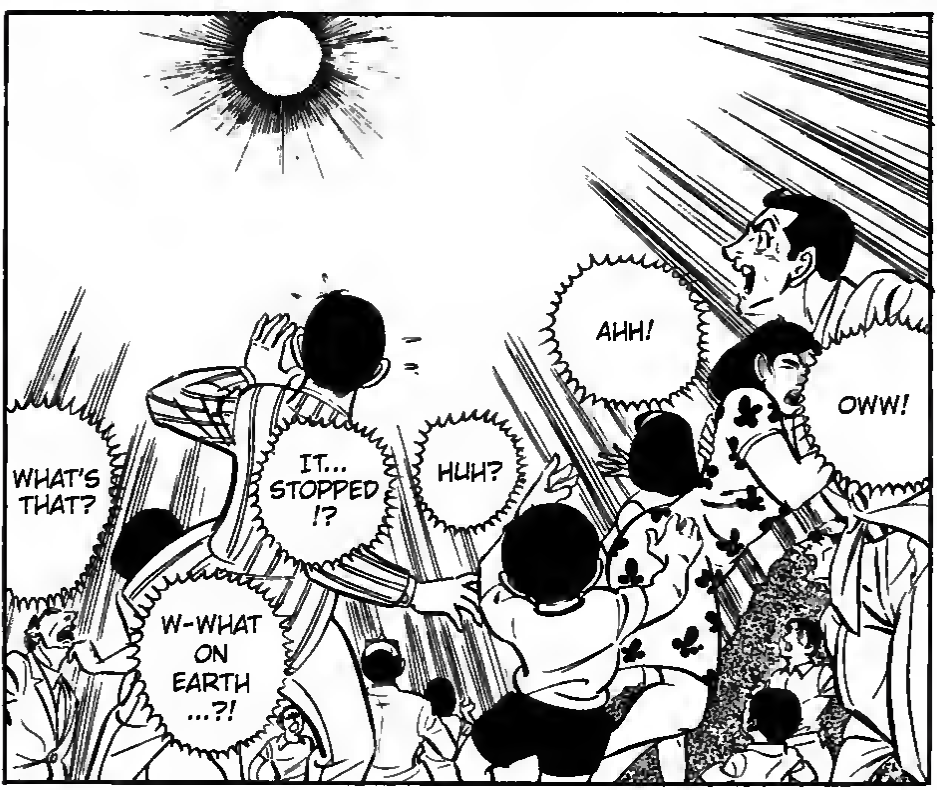
DAMMIT! THE PROFESSOR AND HIS ASSISTANT HAVE ALSO GONE AND DISAPPEARED! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE PLOTTING BUT...

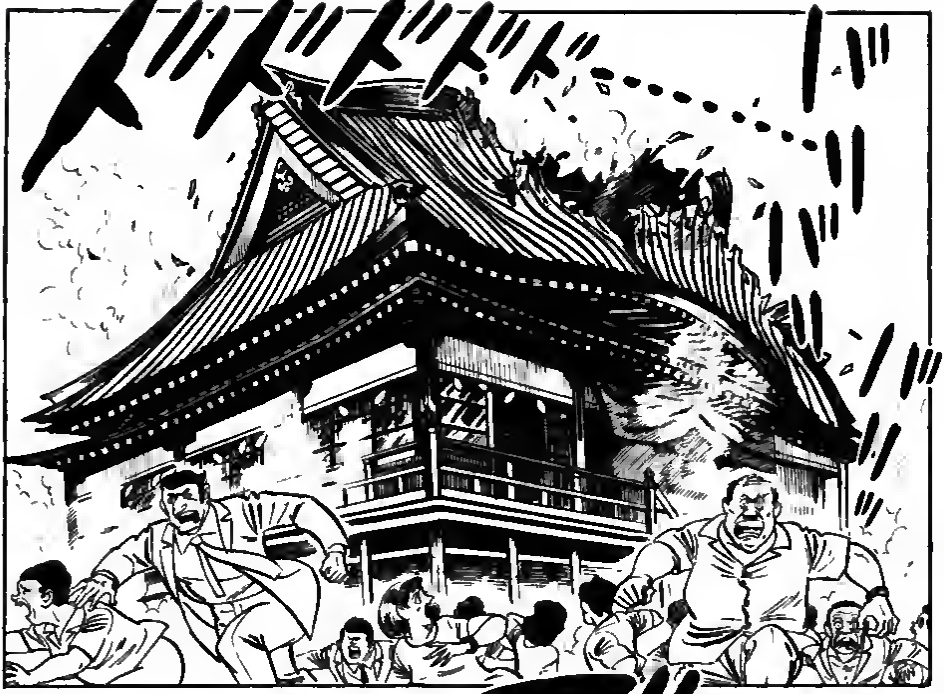
...MY SIXTH SENSE TELLS ME SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE HERE! I'D BETTER NOT STRAY TOO FAR...!

?
LOOK! LOOK AT... THAT!
IT'S... SOME KIND OF SHINY OBJECT!
HUH?
WHAT...? WHAT'S THAT?!
NO! IT'S A METE-ORITE!
A FLYING SAUCER!
IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!
IT'S GETTING CLOSER!

IT MAY BLOW UP!
AH! COME HERE!
AHHH!


AHH!
OWW!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT... STOPPED !?
HUH?
W-WHAT ON EARTH ...?!

AN EARTH-QUAKE!
GHAAA!
EEEK!
AHHH!
EEEEK!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GOD!!
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I-IT'S A GIANT!
A M-MON-STER!
WHAT'S THAT!
EEEEK!
AHHH!
UAHHHH!
EEEK!

LISTEN TO ME, O MISGUIDED SOULS!
I AM GOD!

...GOD...
...
I-IMPOSS-IBLE?!
...A GOD?
...HE SAID "GOD"?

...TO ASSUME A HUMAN ASPECT!
IN ORDER TO LEAD THEE TO SALVATION I'VE FORSAKEN MY REAL FORM...

...HE'S NOT FUJIMOTO ANYMORE.

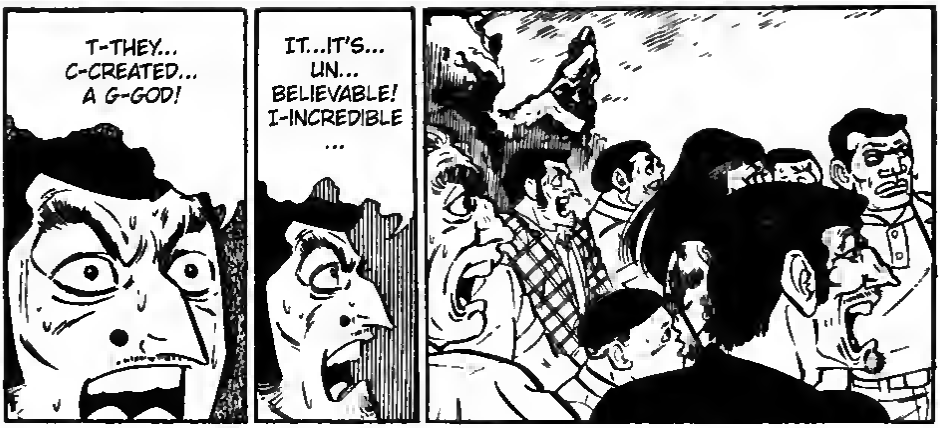
YOU SEE...
FUJIMOTO IS QUITE GOOD!

...

HE MUST BE A GOD! HE MUST! HE MUST BE A GOD FOR THE SAKE OF MANKIND!

...NOW HE'S A GOD!
NO MATTER HOW... OR WHY...

BEHOLD MY HUMAN FORM, O MORTALS! LISTEN TO MY WORDS! AND BELIEVE IN ME!


T-THEY... C-CREATED... A G-GOD!
IT...IT'S... UN... BELIEVABLE! I-INCREDIBLE ...

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MAMORU!
GHAA!

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YAHHH!
AAAH!
...IS... IS HE G-GOING TO... E-EAT HIM?
...HE... G-GRABBED A CHILD!

WALK, O CHILD! RUN! AND BECOME ONE OF MOTHER NATURE'S PROUD SONS!
MAMORU!
I CAN WALK! I CAN WALK!
MA-MAMORU!
...I CAN STAND ON MY OWN LEGS!
...I... CAN STAND UP...